

The Middlebury Campus

JANUARY 16, 2014 | VOL. 112 NO. 12 | MIDDLEBURYCAMPUS.COM

Liebowitz to Resign in 2015

By Kyle Finck

President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz will step down at the conclusion of the next academic year, effective June 30, 2015. He announced the decision in an email sent to students on Dec. 12 in conjunction with major revisions to the structure and governance of the Board of Trustees.

"It has been an honor of the highest order to serve as the 16th president of this remarkable institution," he wrote in the email. "With its dedicated and committed staff, superb faculty and outstanding students, Middlebury has never been stronger or better positioned for the future."

Liebowitz has been at the helm of the College since 2004. During his presidency, the College acquired the Monterey Institute of International Studies, opened 23 Schools Abroad sites and added 120 endowed student scholarships for financial aid in addition to 15 endowed faculty positions.

"Middlebury is a far more complex place than it may look," Liebowitz said. "From the outside, it might look like a university, or something like a university, but not so. Undergraduate education needs to remain the focus of Middlebury, no matter what other programs it acquires or develops."

Liebowitz, a New York City native, graduated from Bucknell University in 1979, majoring in economics and geography while competing as a varsity swimmer. After receiving his doctorate from Columbia University, he joined the faculty at the College in 1984 and was promoted to full professor in 1993. In 2009, Time Magazine named him one of the 10 best college presidents in the country. The President acknowledged the difficulty of his decision to step down, but noted that the time was right for both the institution and for him.

ICE ICE BABY



ANNEA VIRAGH

Warmer weather during the day and below-freezing temperatures at night turned snowmelt into black ice, turning the campus into an accidental ice rink and making for treacherous walking conditions.

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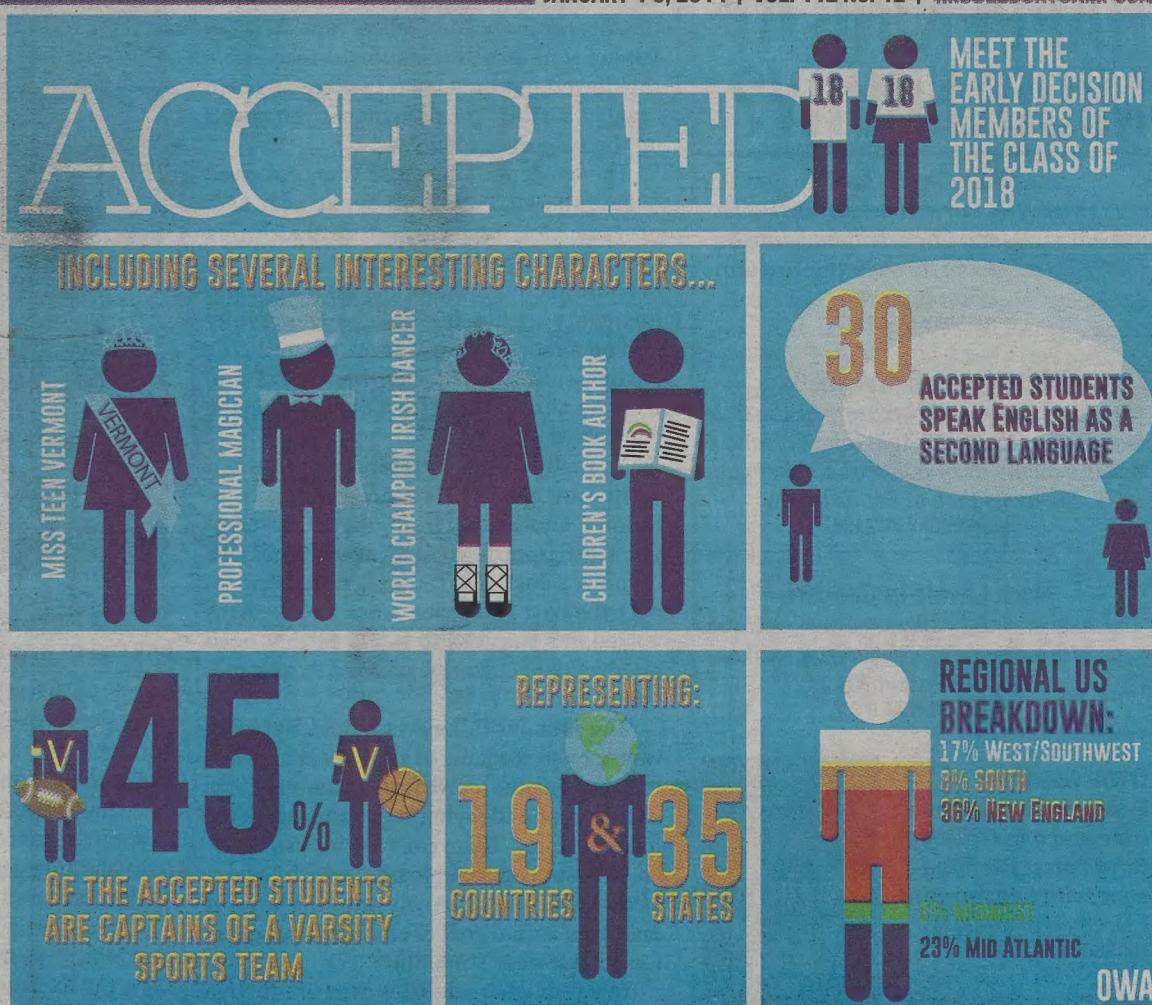
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Polar Vortex Triggers Travel Delays

By Nate Sans

Students were faced with difficult travel conditions caused by Winter Storm Hercules and a polar vortex while attempting to return to the College for the start of J-term, forcing instructors to make accommodations for those who were absent because of travel delays.

The storm, which battered the Midwest and Northeast from Jan. 1-3, has been cited for at least 16 deaths and complicated travel for several days thereafter. Illinois experienced up to 17 inches of snow, while New York was hit with anywhere from six to 11 inches, and parts of Massachusetts received almost two feet of snow.

According to a Fox News report, on Jan. 3 alone, almost 1,500 flights were cancelled due to Winter Storm Hercules. Such cancellations snarled the travel plans of students such as Colleen Harper '14, a member of the Women's Swimming and Diving team who spent 48 hours travelling from her home in Chicago to Middlebury in order to dive at the team's meets at Bates and Colby on Jan. 4 and 5.

"My flight to Burlington [on Thursday] was cancelled, so I took

another flight to Newark that was delayed, causing me to miss the last flights to Burlington until Sunday," Harper said. "I ended up taking a train from Newark to New York and then on to Burlington, and then drove to Middlebury, arriving at 1:30 a.m. on Saturday morning after leaving Chicago at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday morning."

Delays also forced some instructors to make accommodations for missing students during the first few days of classes. Philip B. Stewart and Sarah F. Cowles Stewart Professor of Chemistry Jeff Byers is currently teaching Organic Chemistry I, which meets five days a week for over five hours each day, putting students who miss even one class at a great disadvantage. Byers turned to new technologies to aid those who were unable to return to campus on time.

"Two students missed the first lecture, and I was recording my full lecture on a Smartboard, so they had full access to everything," Byers wrote in an email. "They got caught up pretty much immediately."

C.V. Starr Professor of Russian and East European Studies Tom Beyer, whose Beginning Russian

course meets for three hours every day, also leveraged technology to keep an absent student up to speed in the class as travel troubles kept her at home.

"We used FaceTime to let her participate fully in our intensive language where she was able to view, listen and respond," Beyer said. "In the past for reasons of weather and personal emergencies, I have also used Skype to stay connected with class members."

Other professors opted for replacement or make-up class meetings. Sasha Whittle '17, whose flight from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport was cancelled, missed the first class in her J-term course "Infectious Disease: Historical Epidemics, Current Dilemmas, and Emerging Problems." She was not alone in her absence, however.

"About 15 people missed our first class, so the professors [Visiting Professors Andy Hale '06 and Russell Johanson '06] held a make-up lecture so we could catch up," Whittle said.

For more coverage of the polar vortex, see page 12.

Song Avoids Trial, Jail Time

By Kyle Finck

As students finished exams and prepared to leave campus in mid-December, Dong Song '13 pled guilty to misdemeanor disorderly conduct, a far cry from the felony sexual assault the State Attorney David Fenster originally pursued. Song avoided jail time, paying \$716 in total fines, including a \$75 "victim's restitution surcharge" among others.

After seven months and about a dozen court dates, Song was given his passport by the Middlebury

Police Department and boarded a flight to his native South Korea.

"Finally done and heading home to Korea today and I am all well now. Sincerely wanted to say thank you everyone for having faith in me I couldn't have done it without your unconditional love and support," wrote Song in a Facebook post on Dec. 13. "May your glasses always be half full. 'tough times don't last but tough people do.'"

The Campus reached out to Song for additional comment, but he would not speak further on the

matter. Similarly, Associate Dean for Judicial Affairs and Student Life Karen Guttentag declined to comment on "a private matter that does not involve the College."

The case garnered coverage after the original incident on May 13, 2013, and escalated in the fall when the District Attorney's office aggressively pushed for a jury trial. The path of the case changed after jury draw had already begun, with Judge Robert Mello accepting Song's guilty plea to the misdemeanor on Dec. 11.

MCAB's WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MIDDLEBURY?

Wade Davis Talk

Former NFL Cornerback Wade Davis speaks in Mead Chapel about being an LGBTQ advocate through the You Can Play project.

TUESDAY AT 7 P.M.

Middlebury in the 1960s

Students and administrators at the College during the 1960s will take to Dana to discuss incidents of political activism and the ways they affect us today.

WEDNESDAY AT 7 P.M.

Mark Lavoie in Concert

The J-term small concert series continues as Mark Lavoie's laid-back vibe takes over the Gamut Room.

WEDNESDAY AT 9 P.M.

Trivia Night

Test your useless knowledge and win Grille gift certificates! Beer and wine with two forms of I.D. Open to all ages.

THURSDAY AT 9 P.M.



Free Friday Film ▶
Sci-fi favorite Ender's Game will play in Dana Auditorium.
FRIDAY AT 7 & 10 P.M.

Winter Carnival Tickets On Sale Now!
Claim them at the box office or go to go/boxoffice to order online.

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JustTalks Breaks Down Barriers

By Emily Singer

On Saturday, Jan. 11, 120 first-year students and over 40 upperclassmen met for the second annual JustTalks event. Atwater Dining Hall turned was transformed into a safe haven not only from the freezing rain outside, but also for difficult conversations on the subject of identity.

The concept of JustTalks was conceived during the 2011-2012 academic year as a program for first-year students during their first J-term on campus with the goal of fostering discussions about identity and inequality within the College community and on a more personal level, encouraging participants to challenge themselves and feel uncomfortable at least once during the conversations.

"I really liked [JustTalks] because it started by identifying a need in the community and going from there, developing a program to fit that need," JustTalks organizer Josh Swartz '14.5 said. "And so over the past two years, since I've been involved, it's changed to better fit that need and hasn't necessarily adhered to one specific program."

The first JustTalks event, held last year, was open to students of all years as a means of spreading the word, testing the structure of the event and laying the groundwork for future events. This year's event was limited to first-year participants, which Swartz said was a way of slowly working toward JustTalks' initial goal of creating a program for all first-year students.

In a year where debates over productive critical dialogue have been pushed to the forefront, JustTalks and its goals have become especially relevant.

Fellow JustTalks coordinator Afi Yellow-Duke '15 noted the importance of keeping the structure and conversations behind JustTalks fluid to best-fit community needs.

"One of the things we've been really thoughtful about and continue to be very considerate of is making sure that the program can evolve with what happens on campus and the feedback we get," Yellow-Duke said. "A lot of feedback we got from last year went into building this year's curriculum and we were really trying to make sure that we're always improving and making JustTalks relevant."

In the wake of last year's JustTalks event, as well as a number of open forums held during the fall after controversial



LILY MIAO

Tiffany Change '17, Winson Law '16.5, Mathew Spitzer '16.5 and Divesh Rizal '17 engage in a small group discussion toward the end of Saturday's JustTalks event.

events such as the Chance the Rapper concert, students and administrators raised concerns about the self-selecting nature of such discussions. Students in attendance were more apt to have already participated in meaningful conversations about such issues and thus felt as if they were preaching to the choir and not making a real impact.

Being that JustTalks has now been limited to first-year students but is still voluntary, the audience is slowly being expanded beyond the small group of self-selecting students who are actively interested in engaging in challenging discussions.

"This year there were a lot of freshmen who were there because they ... were organically interested in what JustTalks had to offer," Swartz said. "I think they came because they were excited about those conversations and then left having met other people who were also thirsty to have conversations about identity and inequality."

Swartz added that such was another goal of JustTalks: "to bring new people into those conversations, because oftentimes it's the same 20 people over and over again."

The structure of the JustTalks event eased participants into increasingly personal and challenging conversations by breaking down into small "Family Groups"

and participating in icebreaker activities.

The participants then reunited for an anonymous clicker activity, in which a live-poll was conducted on topics ranging from privilege and sexuality to respect of College property and hook-up culture.

One of the final activities of the day was a stand-up activity, in which a range of qualities and characteristics were read aloud and students were asked to stand if they identified with a certain statement.

"Generally the thinking behind the structure of events is that in order to have productive conversations that get beneath the surface, you have to create a safe space to have those conversations," Swartz said. "So the morning is dedicated to talking about safe space, talking about social identity, sharing some personal experiences in a smaller family group. And then as people start to get more comfortable, you come back into a bigger group and get more personal, but still anonymous, with a clicker poll activity ... Later in the day there's the Stand activity, where you're standing and you're claiming identity, so it gets more and more personal throughout the day as people get more comfortable."

First-years responded positively to the discussions encouraged by the event and the structure of the event itself.

SEE JUSTTALKS, PAGE 4

SRI Creates New RISE Endowment Fund

By Emilie Munson

The College's divestment debate took a break from being in the spotlight during the Fall semester, but a new initiative from the Socially Responsible Investment Club (SRI) may reinvigorate the movement. SRI has created a new sub-group, the Research and Investment in Social Equity (RISE) fund, that will focus on investing \$150,000 of the College's endowment in companies that demonstrate strength in sustainability and social responsibility in addition to considering traditional financial indicators.

The RISE fund will determine who to invest in by evaluating companies using Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors. To inform their investing, the RISE fund will use a unique data set produced by Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI), which rates businesses in different industries based on ESG factors such as clean energy use and investment and racial and gender diversity among company executives.

SRI co-chairs Ben Chute '13.5 and Nate Cleveland '16.5 hope the fund will prove that considering factors like sustainability when investing is beneficial to individuals and institutions in the long-term.

The thesis behind ESG investing is all these criteria are indicators of a strong company and a company that is well positioned to do well long into the future and further than the traditional investment horizon usually forecasts," Chute said, adding that research has shown that "using these risk-factors to enhance your investing doesn't hurt you at

all and actually helps you invest in more sustainable companies and that puts pressure on these companies to be better."

If the RISE fund proves to be successful, this kind of investing could be translated to the college's entire billion-dollar endowment.

Cleveland added that the fund seeks to promote embracing what is known as the Triple Bottom Line: people, planet and profit.

"There doesn't necessarily need to be trade-offs between making profits and supporting companies that are doing the best they can to impact society ... and diminish their environmental impacts," he said.

The fund came to life with surprising alacrity during the Fall 2013 semester as Chute used his position as the first-ever Student Liaison to the Board of Trustees to advocate for it. He noted that at first, the RISE fund was "jokingly floated around previously" but was surprised to find that many board members approved of the idea nearly immediately.

"[I've] been able to see the growing acceptance of this [sustainable investing] as a viable and actually advantageous strategy within the Board of Trustees," Chute said.

SRI members working on the RISE fund are currently trying to produce a charter to outline the fund's structure and process and are researching companies that they might want to invest in. They plan to make their first investments come February.

Both Chute and Cleveland have acknowledged the RISE fund's position as a unique learning and teaching tool.

"There are very few other places where college kids get to manage this kind of money," Cleveland said.

He hopes that through the fund, students can learn the vocabulary and skills required for responsible investing and the benefits of integrating ESG criteria into the evaluation of investments.

Additionally, the purchase of the MSCI data set will provide an educational opportunity for all students.

"Purchasing this data set will be really, really cool because it will shift our school's focus," Virginia Wiltshire-Gordon '16, co-president of SRI, said.

"If everybody has this resource, then it is possible for ... for students to start using it, for professors to start using it, for it to get integrated into the school's curriculum," she said. "It will increase everybody's involvement in ESG research."

Chute reiterated Wiltshire-Gordon's excitement for the potential of the data set and what it means for the student body.

"I think this is something that is very consistent with Middlebury as a whole right now. Students here seem to have this immense capacity to integrate sustainability and interdisciplinary thinking into so many different things: look at the food movement, look at Solar Decathlon. Those [types of] students, ... we need as many of them as possible."

Students interest in participating in the RISE fund should attend meetings on Mondays at 5:30 in Hillcrest 103 or email Nate Cleveland at ncleveland@middlebury.edu.

NEWS BRIEF

Compiled by Kelsey Collins
and Nate Sans

MiddCORE Receives Innovation Award

MiddCORE, the mentor-driven experiential learning Winter Term and summer course on entrepreneurship and innovation, received the Ashoka U Cordes Innovation Award. MiddCORE was one of six recipients of this year's award, which is given annually by Ashoka, the world's largest network of social entrepreneurs.

"This is a tremendous honor and we're proud to be in the company of the other winners," Jessica Holmes, director of MiddCORE and associate professor of Economics, said in a press release. "We also recognize the strong support we received from our incredible mentors, the administration and our colleagues at the Center for Social Entrepreneurship and the Programs for Creativity and Innovation. We are fortunate to be part of such a strong ecosystem for innovation at Middlebury College."

The award is given to programs which "demonstrate how students, faculty and community members can achieve social impact through colleges and universities — from admissions, curriculum and ca-

reer services, all the way to community and alumni engagement," according to Ashoka's website.

The six winners, including MiddCORE, will be featured at the annual Ashoka U Exchange, an annual international conference featuring 140 institutions from 40 countries which will take place at Brown University on February 20-22.

Mellon Recognizes Dance Department

In early December the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded a \$310,000 grant to the College in support of "Movement Matters," which a College news release described as "a multi-year interdisciplinary endeavor to bring emerging artists in the field of dance together with Middlebury faculty and students for creative and curricular development."

According to a College press release, Assistant Professor of Dance and Chair of the Dance Program Christal Brown will be the director of the project, which will address the literal and metaphorical interactions between the human body and "our physical and political worlds."

As part of the project, "emerging movement artists" will come to the College during Winter Term 2015, and one of those artists will receive an appointment as the Mellon Interdisciplinary Choreographer at Middlebury.

In the press release, Brown said that the grant could make the College a home of dance innovation.

"This is an investment in the field at large which we hope will lay the groundwork for our dance program to grow into a hub for creativity and innovation among emerging movement artists."

According to Brown, the grant is likely to boost the prestige of the College's dance program, attracting both students and visiting artists alike.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Council Debates Surveillance Camera Installation

By David Yang

On Tuesday Jan. 18, Community Council met to continue brainstorming agenda topics for the spring semester and began conversations concerning the implementation of surveillance cameras on campus.

This week, after hearing from members of the Council who were not present last week, the Council broached the topic of surveillance cameras. Dean of the College and Community Council Co-Chair Shirley Collado explained the context in which the topic emerged. Toward the end of last year, as Community Council discussed "dorm damage, tree damages and thefts that have gone on... [there] was a question about whether or not cameras in any shape of form in any major location on campus would be something we should think about," according to Collado.

Members of the Council had mixed feelings about the subject. Although contending that the members of the College community generally self-police and are trusting toward others, Tim Parsons, campus horticulturist, spoke about the reality of the world outside of our community.

"While we live in a tight-knit community, we are part of a larger scary world," Parsons said.

He believed that surveillance cameras could be "another tool in the tool box" that can improve campus security.

Professor of American Studies and English & American Literatures Will Nash, brought up the question of how the surveillance would be used, especially if it would be used against students who engage in underage drinking.

"There is a gradation of how these tapes can be used," Nash said, "If [the cameras] were to make things more secretive... I think there may be some blowbacks from that and would increase some of our problems."

Student Government Association President Rachel Liddell '15 was also concerned about the potential usage of these video tapes.

"I am really nervous about having control

of my own image and [positively] portraying myself... I would really prefer if there were not images of me walking into dorms with alcohol on my hands."

Implementing surveillance cameras, however, would not be unprecedented in terms of controversial measures taken to increase campus security.

"Years ago, [when the card access system] was introduced, students were very distressed about having cards to access [buildings] and that the college would be able to read when people were going in and out," Collado said. "But it is a huge advantage to us when something goes very wrong... It was a big decision when we [implemented the card access system], but now it is a pretty normal thing."

Dean of Students Doug Adams compared the surveillance cameras with the card access system that has now become normal.

"[In public places] you expect to be on camera [...] and it is a normal thing," Adams said. "One of the things we proved with card access is that there is no intent to track [a student's] behavior on a regular basis. [Having surveillance cameras] helps the community; it is there as a positive tool."

Ben Bogin '15 opposed the additional ways by which students can be monitored.

"You can be really tracked everywhere," Bogin said, referencing cyber security and public video cameras. "But I don't think that necessarily justifies adding one more place that people can track us."

Collado concluded the discussion of surveillance cameras by stating that "it is a huge luxury for us to be having this conversation around the kind of parameters we want to look at as a community," calling the discussion "important work for Community Council."

The Community Council previously met last Monday to voice concerns and draft a list of discussion topics for the coming year. New topics include crosswalk safety at night, dorm cleanout and weapon and ammunition storage on campus.

College Mourns Armstrong, 12th President

Dr. James Armstrong, the 12th president of the College, passed away on Dec. 16, 2013. Armstrong helmed the College from 1963 to 1975. During his time in office, he instituted the College's first system of tenure, created a professional leave program, worked furiously to surpass fundraising goals, increased faculty salaries and worked to improve curricula first-hand.

Armstrong's tenure was marked by social and political unrest, along with financial difficulties. Nevertheless, Armstrong successfully positioned the College as one of the nation's top liberal arts colleges.

Armstrong was born in Princeton, New Jersey where his father was a member of the faculty. He attended the Taft

School in Connecticut, and then Princeton, where he studied Classics. After Princeton, he served in the U.S. Army during World War II, and was recalled for the Korean War.

Armstrong was an instructor at Princeton and Indiana University before he was approached in 1963 by the Board of Trustees to replace Samuel Stratton, the College's 11th President.

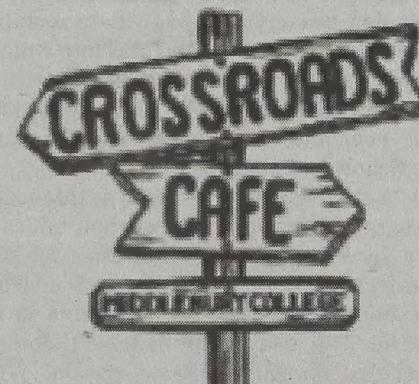
After his term as president, Armstrong headed the Charles A. Dana Foundation. In 2010 the College established the James I. Armstrong Professorship in Classical Studies, currently held by Professor of Classics Jane Chaplin. Armstrong and his wife Carol had three children and numerous grandchildren.

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Two Things in your life that are open 24/7



MCAB: Trivia Night

THURSDAY 9:00-11:00PM

All ages welcome! Beer and wine available for 21+ w 2 forms of ID. Free food!

Jam for Justice

FRIDAY 8:00-10:00PM

An evening of open mic and slam poetry that raises awareness of LGBTQIA activism throughout the years. All ages welcome! Beer and wine available for 21+ w 2 forms of ID.

Late Night Karaoke

FRIDAY MIDNIGHT-2:00AM

51 Main AT THE BRIDGE

Afinque

FRIDAY 8:00-11:00PM

Big Band Classic Salsa and Salsa Dura from Burlington, VT. Donations accepted to benefit MAlt Dominican Republic. go/maltdr

Mint Julep

SATURDAY 8:00-11:00PM

Mint Julep gives jazz a fresh flavor performing all the sweet and scandalous standards from the Golden Age of Swing and Jazz with a modern flair.

MCSE to Host Third Innovation Symposium

By Day Robins

The Middlebury Center for Social Entrepreneurship (MCSE) will host its third annual symposium, titled "Social Entrepreneurship and The Future of Education," on Jan. 23-24 to celebrate improvements and innovations in education around the world.

Two leaders in the field of social innovation, keynote speaker New York Times "Fixes" columnist David Bornstein and Shabana Basij-Rasik '11, will focus their remarks on the impact of improvements in education on the economy, on improving social injustices and on our lives. The symposium will shine a light on the successes educators are having around the world at making positive social change.

"It's a time of great challenge for education, for a whole lot of reasons," Professor of Economics and MCSE Director Jon Isham said. "But, what social entrepreneurs are showing is that with technology and with decentralized approaches built around the students' needs, education can rise to the challenge. That's what we want to promote."

Basij-Rasik, president and co-found-

er of School of Leadership Afghanistan (SOLA), will kick off the symposium with a talk titled, "Dare to Educate Afghan Women" on Thursday, Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. in Mead Chapel. As a social entrepreneur, Basij-Rasik took on the mission to empower Afghan women and girls. SOLA has effectively provided exceptional Afghan women with the tools necessary to further their education, and is an institution which marks significant progress in possibly the most challenging place to promote primary education. Basij-Rasik, who was born and raised in Kabul, Afghanistan, has been inspired by her own educational experience, during which she risked the deadly consequences of dressing as a boy in order to attend school as a child.

Bornstein, the leading journalist and writer in the realm of solutions-journalism, will give the symposium's keynote speech titled "Solutions Journalism: Scholarship in Real Time," at 7:30 p.m. on Friday Jan. 24 in McCullough. As co-author of the New York Times "Fixes" column, Bornstein explores solutions to major social problems with a "cutting

edge" approach to journalism, which focuses on documenting people who are finding solutions rather than reporting on problems. Bornstein has written two books, "Social Entrepreneurship: What Everyone Needs to Know," and "How To Change The World"; he is currently working on his third.

"It's hard to conceptualize," said Gaby Fuentes '16, a member of this year's MCSE fellowship cohort and of Isham's Winter Term class, "Social Entrepreneurship in the Liberal Arts." "It's hard to grapple with sometimes. And I think a lot of people are confused about what exactly social entrepreneurship is."

Most of Fuentes' role in preparing for the symposium will be providing input via in-class discussions.

"The symposium is a way to capture the energy around the idea of social entrepreneurship in the liberal arts," Isham said, adding that over his years at the College, he has observed that "conferences designed a certain way can really jump-start ideas on this campus."

The week of the symposium will also feature an array of interactive activities

such as workshops and Google Hangouts with leaders in the field of social innovation.

"It's not a symposium where you're talked at," Isham said. "The year's programming will allow students to contribute and participate."

Leaders from organizations such as Ashoka, Clinton Global Initiative, and Educate! in Uganda will be leading interactive workshops that will make students more aware of current student and alumni work in educational innovations around the world.

Jihad Hajjouji '14 will lead a workshop titled "Developing a Theory of Change: a Case from Morocco."

"The workshop will focus on thinking process of how an organization gets to create the intended impact through its activities," Jihad said. "I will be using my own project, called the National Entrepreneurial Camp, as a case study."

In addition to Hajjouji, Jeff Digel '78, Elsa Palanza '01 and Angelica Towne '08, who made Forbes' 2014 list of "30 under 30 Social Entrepreneurs," will also lead workshops on campus on the January

First-Years Engage Challenging Issues at JusTalks

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

"I think at a campus, although as liberal as Middlebury, there is always a distance, especially with all the diversity that we have," Divesh Rizal '17 said. "We all come from such different places and with all of our academics and extracurricular [activities], we happen to be surrounded by this small circle that we don't often try to come out of. I think programs like JusTalks ... let people come out and show other people who they are, or even make them explore who they are themselves."

He added that he signed up for JusTalks with the goal of exploring himself and seeing a side of others that rarely manifests itself in the classroom or during extracurricular activities.

In many ways, JusTalks resembles the Midd Uncensored activity that takes place during first-year orientation, in which students are pushed out of their comfort zone and reveal different facets of their identity and personal history. JusTalks, however, has the advantage of students being more in-tune with campus culture after one semester and can therefore delve deeper.

Gabrielle Owens '17 signed up for JusTalks at the suggestion of her roommate and saw the event as a furthering of her orientation experience.

"It's nice to be able to do this now, after I'm a bit more comfortable in this environment and it's not quite so uncertain and overwhelming," she said.

Laura Xiao '17 echoed Owens' statement, calling JusTalks an expanded version of Midd Uncensored and noting the importance of its status as a student-run program.

"I'm really impressed that it's all stu-

dent-run and I'm glad that this is something that students came up with and students are organizing because it shows that this is the direction that the student body wants to go in, rather than the administration, top-down, saying 'we want you guys to do these kinds of things and think like this,'" Xiao said.

JusTalks Faculty Advisor and Dean of Students Karen Guttentag believes that the student-led nature of the event "provides a much more multifaceted educational experience to all those who are involved."

"The leaders are learning about the logistical and philosophical aspects of organizing an ambitious large-scale program; the leaders and facilitators are learning about pedagogical and instructional techniques; and the first-year participants are able to see in the leadership of their peers and their own potential for future activism and leadership," Guttentag wrote in an email.

Current organizers and Guttentag anticipate that JusTalks will occur again next year, though its precise structure remains uncertain.

Swartz and Yellow-Duke mentioned ongoing discussions about the possibility of eventually turning JusTalks into a mandatory off-campus retreat. Guttentag reiterated such a possibility, but noted that the goal and purpose of JusTalks must somehow be enhanced.

"A stand-alone event, such as this year's program, is an important anchor, but cannot serve as the only mechanism for students to develop the skills and insights we hope they will gain," she wrote in an email. "Our conversations have therefore included the possibility of working with

COLLEGE WELCOMES ANGELA DAVIS



Political activist Angela Davis addressed members of the community in Mead Chapel on Jan. 9 as the keynote speaker for the College's Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Weekend and JusTalks programming.

the National Intergroup Dialogue Institute to implement this program, or similar programs, on campus to ensure continuation of this work throughout the academic year."

JusTalks does not seek to resolve big issues of identity on campus, but rather seeks to, quite simply, spark conversation.

"I don't think anyone thinks that JusTalks is the be-all, end-all to solving the ways that we talk about these issues, or

solving these issues in general, but ... we do think it's a helpful tool in engaging with issues about identity," Yellow-Duke said.

Swartz noted the importance of challenging dialogue in creating an inclusive community at the College.

"It's deceptively simple how having a conversation with someone does that and I think seeing it last year and seeing it again this year, it's a really powerful thing," Yellow-Duke added.

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Gov. Shumlin Delivers State of State Address, Focusing Exclusively on VT. Heroin Crisis

By Ilana Gratch

On Wednesday, Jan. 8, Gov. Peter Shumlin utilized his State of the State Message to tackle an issue that had not previously been addressed. Shumlin used all 34 minutes of his address to voice his concerns regarding the heroin and other opiate-based drug addictions that are pervasive in the state of Vermont.

Governor Shumlin declared the epidemic a "full-blown heroin crisis." He also expressed concern over the state's future if things continue the way they are, stating that the addiction "threatens the safety that has always blessed our state."

Governor Shumlin pointed to the fact that last year, the number of heroin-related deaths doubled from the previous year. Additionally,

since 2000, there has been a 770 percent increase in the need for treatment for this addiction.

Governor Shumlin stated his intention to shift the focus from a punitive reaction to a more rehabilitative response.

"We must address it as a public health crisis, providing treatment and support, rather than simply doling out punishment, claiming victory, and

moving on to our next conviction," he said in his address.

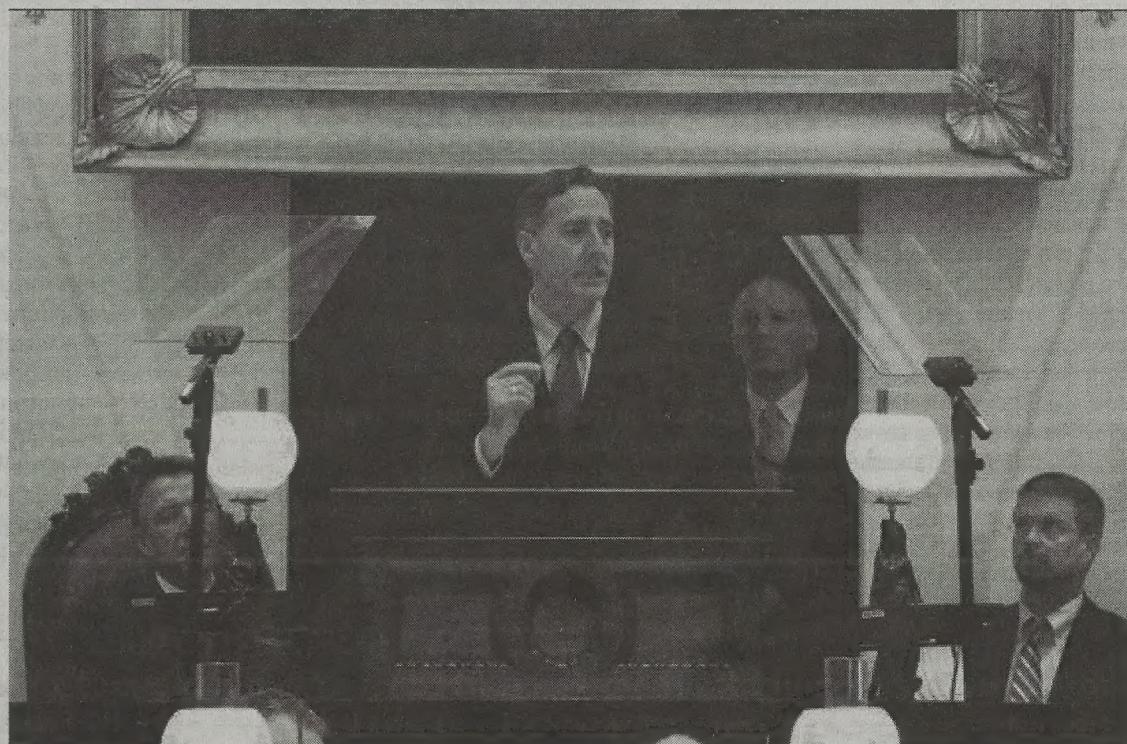
Shumlin explained that there is a severe lack of treatment facilities in the state and that this is a problem considering how many people are struggling with opiate addiction. He recommended that the Legislature allocate \$200,000 to this cause immediately. In doing so, he pointed to the upwards of 500 citizens who have expressed a strong desire to receive treatment but are sitting on waitlists for programs.

There has been ambivalence in some communities regarding the construction of new treatment facilities, but Shumlin called on officials to enact change on this front.

"The time has come for us to stop quietly averting our eyes from the growing heroin addiction in our front yards while we fear and fight

"The time has come for us to stop quietly averting our eyes from the growing heroin addiction in our front yards while we fear and fight treatment facilities in our backyards."

GOVERNOR PETER SHUMLIN
STATE OF VERMONT



COURTESY

Governor Peter Shumlin devoted all 34 minutes of his State of the State Address last week to expressing his concerns on the heroin and opiate-based drug addiction problems in the state.

treatment facilities in our backyards," he said.

The governor introduced another element of his plan that would allow those already convicted of possessing heroin the chance to forego incarceration and instead seek a structured treatment

program. Again, this initiative is dependent on the construction of new facilities.

However, Shumlin's proposal did not only seek to ease penalties. It also suggested coming down harder on individuals guilty of selling heroin, which, as the governor said, should "help ensure that high volume dealers who bring drugs into our state to prey upon Vermonters in pursuit of profits will suffer the consequences."

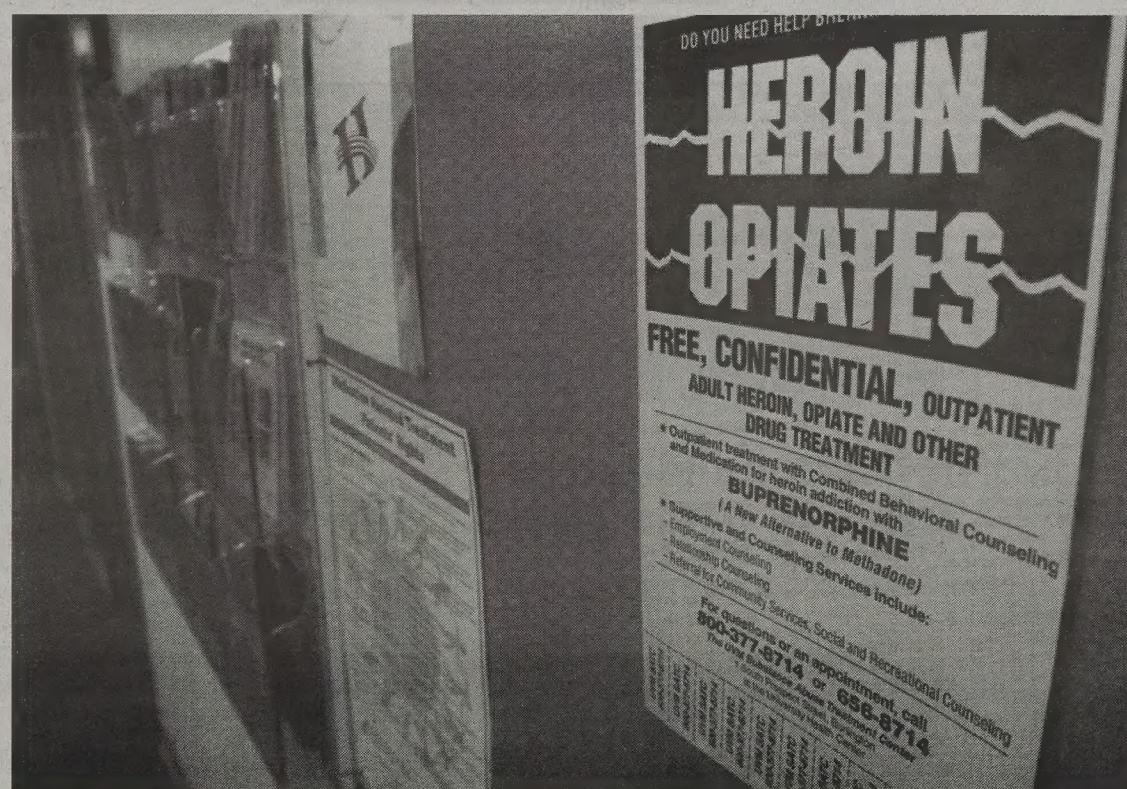
The proposal seems to have generated mixed results. Most Democrats are pleased with Shumlin's ideas, and most Republicans are not as thrilled about the fact that he devoted his entire message to a single issue.

Representative Heidi Scheuermann from Stowe, Vt. is one such Republican. "We do have to tackle addiction, but people day after day are asking me about healthcare," Scheuermann told the *New York Times*. She felt that Shumlin's address was mostly a distraction from the confusion surrounding the current healthcare chaos.

On the other hand, Democratic Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont released a statement on his website praising Shumlin's proposal.

"I commend the Governor and the Vermont Legislature for making this a top priority for the new session," Leahy said. "We need all hands on deck to fight heroin and opiate addiction in Vermont, and the Governor has proposed answers that can draw strength from all parts of our community."

The proposal will now be evaluated by the Judiciary committees in the House and Senate, both of which have Democrat majorities.



Since 2000, Vermont saw a 770 percent increase in the need for drug addiction treatment.

OPINIONS

The Middlebury Campus

Six Headlines We Want to See in 2014

The New Year always provides an opportunity for reflection. While **EDITORIAL** Buzzfeed is littered with lists looking back at "14 Animals who Melted your Heart in 2013" and "33 Times Joseph Gordon-Levitt Charmed your Pants

Off in 2013," we have decided to look forward to 2014, with these six headlines we would love to see in the next year.

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The Middlebury Campus (USPS 556-060), the student newspaper of Middlebury College, is published by The Middlebury Campus Publications. Publication is every Thursday of the academic year, except during official college vacation periods and final examinations. Editorial and business offices are located in Hepburn Hall Annex, Middlebury College. The Middlebury Campus is produced on Apple Macintosh computers using Adobe InDesign CS5 and is printed by the Press Republican in New York. The advertising deadline for all display and classified advertising is 5 p.m. Friday for the following week's issue. Mailing address: The Middlebury Campus, Drawer 30, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vt., 05753. Business phone: (802) 443-5737. Please address distribution concerns to the Business Director. First class postage paid at Middlebury, Vt., 05753.

JusTalks Mandated for all First-Years



Throughout the fall, our editorials advocated for critical engagement in campus issues and better listening to a diversity of perspectives. JusTalks presents a proactive solution for this challenge through a full day of large and small group activities and discussion facilitated by other students to encourage students to think about their own identities, as well as the identities of their peers.

Now at the end of its second occurrence — and the first time it was limited to first-years — JusTalks has proven its ability to draw a crowd and provide a meaningful curriculum. From its inception, JusTalks was meant to be mandatory for students in their first J-term, meaning first-year regs and sophomore febs. J-term provides the ideal space for such an event. By J-term, students have been at Middlebury long enough to be comfortable and have an identity on campus, but not so long that they are fixed in their ways. If events like "Middlebury Uncensored" during Orientation are any indication, this kind of program can help students better understand and engage with their peers and even make new friends who they otherwise may never have met.

To conclude a year that has been dotted by the need for dialogue, from the 9/11 flag incident to Chance the Rapper to the Amy Wax lecture, the administration would be wise to implement a program that mandates the discussions we need to reflect as a community and as individuals when controversy arises.

Students Take Larger Role in Deciding Next President

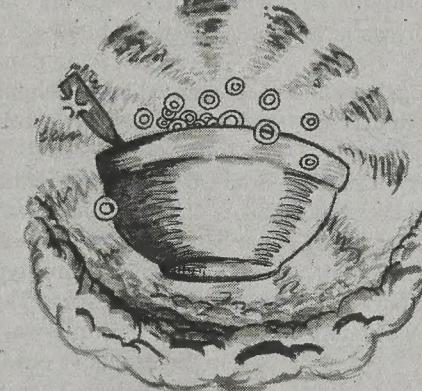
President Liebowitz's announcement that he is stepping down in 2015 has sparked discussion about the role of our next President. What qualities should our next President embody? What background is needed? Where could he or she fill in existing gaps? What should be prioritized?

As students, we have a hard time answering these questions because process to select and qualities required for a president are a bit of a mystery. When Liebowitz was selected in 2004, the 16-person selection committee had one student representative: the student co-chair of Community Council. While the co-chair is a student-elected position, one student on a committee of 16 seems to preclude an important stakeholder in this process.

Liebowitz was selected in part because of his strong rapport with the student body, and we are hugely

impacted by the College's decisions in most areas. We would like to be included in this process in a more significant way than we were last time, both directly in the decision process and through transparency along the way. We want to have informed opinions about the kind of President the College needs next, but the administration must keep us in mind along the way in order to meaningfully account for the student voice.

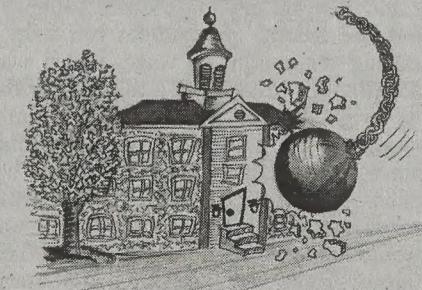
Dish Loss Cut 50 Percent by Collection Program



Dish removal still causes huge monetary losses for the College and showcases a troubling lack of respect for our hardworking staff. If we ever want to be able to eat cereal for breakfast, we need to stop stealing the dishes. It's disrespectful both to the dining hall staff and to our fellow diners. We need to bring back bowls so we can enjoy our meals without eating oatmeal off a plate.

A new program should require every student group to do a dish collection every year. Tavern has the right idea and should serve as a model for other organizations. The top 28 student organizations by membership should be required to each do a dish retrieval sweep from dorms once a year. That breaks down to one per week. It's time to mandate this program.

Battell and the Mods Demolished; New Housing Built



For those of us unlucky enough to live in Battell our first year, this issue hits particularly close to home. The converted lounges across campus confirm that we need more housing. Moreover, we need more housing that was not built in the fifties, and preferably are not designed by a prison architect. The risk of student rioting seems substantially lower than when Ross was built. We would prefer housing that allows for the communal living seen in Gifford and other dorms with suites.

Similarly, the Mods were slated for demolition in 2003. While their popularity hinges on the option of communal living without having to enter room draw, they should be replaced with something more permanent and perhaps a little easier on the eye.

We know buildings are expensive, and plans for new first-year housing were slashed with the recession, but the endowment has since recovered and our quality of life is hugely impacted by our living situation. Plus it is expensive to heat and maintain old buildings, particularly buildings with asbestos problems. The speed at which gastro flew around Battell two years ago is

enough of a sign that we need better and more options. That dorm was supposed to be gone by 2015; it is not too late.

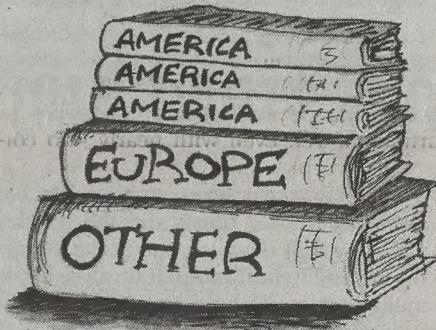
Field House Opens on Schedule



It's been a rough winter for some of our sports teams. Teams are practicing outside long past when it's usually too cold. The Track team

has been frequenting the pool for aqua jogging. Unfortunately, they can't all cross train in our brand new squash courts, so we need the new field house to open soon too. So far, it appears that construction is going as scheduled. The Squash Center's timely opening is a good sign. But we know construction often is delayed, and our athletes shouldn't have to endure another winter of driving to Burlington for proper facilities. We are excited to see what will replace the bubble and will be even more excited if we can see it on schedule.

AAL Credit Changed to be Geographically Balanced



In order to graduate, we are required to meet four "Culture and Civilizations" requirements: NOR focusing on some aspect of northern America (United States and Canada), CMP focusing on the process of comparison between and among civilizations or of the identities of groups within cultures or civilizations, EUR focusing on some aspect of European cultures or civilizations, AAL focusing on the culture and civilizations of Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, and the Caribbean. That's right, we have two requirements for Western civilizations and lump the rest of the world into an acronym for Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Until 2007 it was called "other," but since then we have changed nothing other than the name. While the NOR requirement can be justified by our institution's location, the emphasis on European culture over all other cultures trivializes the importance of these cultures and their global impact. For a college that claims to teach students to "engage the world," we are falling short.

The College, therefore, should adopt the proposed recommendation of a recent petition on "We the MiddKids," which suggests replacing the AAL and EUR requirements by requiring two courses that focus on some aspects of the cultures and civilizations of AFR (Africa), ASI (Asia), LAC (Latin America and the Caribbean), MDE (the Middle East), or EUR (Europe). In a nutshell, all other regions would be considered their own region, and you could choose to take classes in two of six geographic regions instead of separate credits for Europe and then other regions. Not only would this change better reflect the diversity of backgrounds that exist on this campus and expose students to a wider range of cultural impacts, but also it would encourage students to think beyond and question the Western-centered perspective that prevails in many circles we will encounter after graduation.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY NOLAN ELLSWORTH

Ski It If You Can

The most marked observation I took away from my short-lived skiing experience is the recognition that people of color are not skiing along with me, but rather operating the ski lift, pouring the hot chocolate, and serving the poppy-seed scones to skiers.

READER OPED

Charles Griggs '16 is from Chicago, Ill.

“American ski culture continues to exist as an increasingly wealthy culture exclusive of minorities [where] even in the American West, noted for its racial and ethnic diversity, ski resorts have remained as white as snow.” These words, written by Professor Annie Coleman of Notre Dame, unfortunately mirror my brief times on the slopes.

I realized the overwhelmingly whiteness of skiing at Middlebury when a friend greeted me back for J-term by sobbing about how lonely a New York City apartment can get when your parents are skiing Vail. Other friends surrounded me at dinner grinned, waxing nostalgic about annual family ski trips to Beaver Creek and the Swiss Alps. Yet the starker reminder of my place as a minority comes during J-term by walking through dorms and dining halls festooned with towering skis and snowboards, passing lolling ski poles and snowboard boots, and the sight of zip ties from expired ski passes dangling off coat zippers.

I became apprehensive to speak to this observation, in fear of being pinned as the “angry black man” incapable of mingling with his peers. However, in my hesitation I came to realize that skiing is emblematic of white America, characterized by a classist paradigm that safeguards the social status of well-off white citizens at the cost of everyone else’s.

It is no secret that skiing is expensive. According to the National Ski Areas Association, overall spending at U.S. ski resorts between 2011 and 2012 totaled a whopping \$5.8 billion. While published Census data indicates only 12 percent of all households earn more than one hundred thousand dollars annually, the same organization claims that 54 percent of people out on

the slopes fall into this category.

Unsurprisingly, the sport continues to attract a wealthy and white demographic, creating a culture that, as Professor Coleman notes, “create[s] [a] culture that exclude[s] people of color.” While some can contend that skiing is becoming more accessible to those with lower incomes, the impermeable elitist culture attached to alpine sports has not.

Though my parents are now able to decipher between alpine and Nordic skiing with pride, thanks to a quick flip through the photos in the free 2014 engagement calendar, this progress amounts to nothing more than seeing from below how long the hike up is, while the privileged few continue on their rotating chairlift to the top.

This culture and disparity of wealth plays out over J-term as some students prepare and head to the Snow Bowl and Mad River Glen, while others head to their dorms. Hearing some students continue to speak about the financial burden of purchasing textbooks while others whimper about the price of season lift passes further highlights this divide.

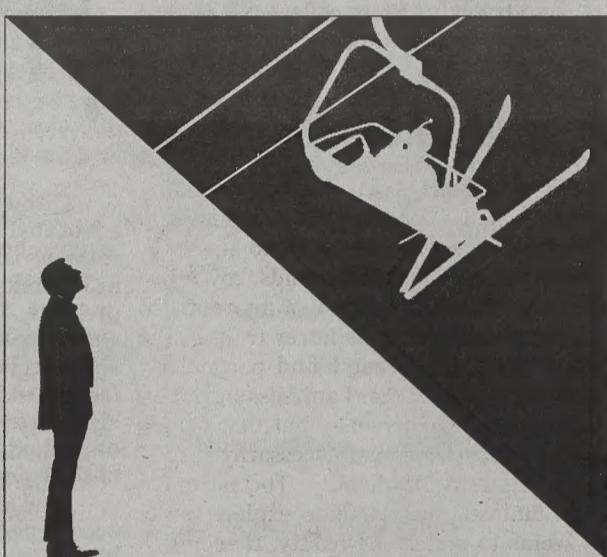
There is a large population of students that cloak a presumed prep-school status by ironically foregoing traditional cable knit sweaters and pastel-colored bottoms for tattered flannels and boxy Carhartt pants. Some of these students, who zip across campus on bikes that are worth more than some nations’ GDP per capita incomes, are walking examples of the subtle ways in which stereotypical preppy new-Englanders present themselves. Through this image, I roughly sketch the multiple ways that classism showcases itself in the exclusive outdoor scene here at Middlebury.

Nevertheless, I aspire to become a Mountain Club Guide, a role in which I would assist in coordinating and leading hikes and camping trips. Becoming a February Outdoor Orientation (FOO!) leader would fulfill one of the prerequisites to become a guide. While outdoor experience is irrefutably essential to ensure safety for participants, everyone does not have the ac-

cess and the resources to be qualified, highlighting the privileges that enable some to participate, and render others not.

A feeling of inutility overwhelmed me as I completed the application. Several questions reasonably asked about personal outdoor experience, including snowshoeing and backcountry skiing. While other applicants presumably retold their experiences with real-life accuracy, I was left trying to make up a backcountry ski trip and snowshoeing experience I lacked.

In that moment I thought my hope of becoming a FOO! leader was squashed and becoming a mountain guide would be postponed. Amidst a “large pool of well-qualified applicants,” I was shocked to learn I had been chosen as an “alternate” to fill a spot if one opens. While I am grateful for the potential that this opportunity might bring, I cannot help but be reminded by the classism embedded in winter sports, and the fact that the privilege of participation in outdoor activities is not readily afforded to me.



IAN STEWART & HANNAH BRISTOL

ONE STRIKE AND YOU'RE BANKRUPT

The day that I was supposed to head home for winter break and the holidays, I put my foot down on the brake pedal of my car and it didn’t stop. It was a scary moment that could have resulted in serious damage, so I decided to take my car to the mechanic before braving the 300 mile journey to Western New York. Two days later and \$1200 poorer, I finally made it home.

I didn’t buy that car. I never had to scrape together enough savings or make a monthly car payment. When he bought it new in 2002, my grandfather had — rightly — called it the last car that he would ever own. It was my first.

I don’t pay the insurance on that car, either. My parents cover the cost of that through their policy (and if they haven’t given that recent thought, this will be a very expensive column for me). I pay for the gas and the maintenance costs, and for small repairs. But when calamity strikes, my parents are still my first call. This does necessarily not make me lazy; when my parents wanted to buy their first house, they too called their parents, who probably never could have called on their own for such a favor. If the goal of each generation is to leave their children better off, then success is not something that happens overnight. It builds over years, through family, across generations. We benefit from the hard work and good fortune of those who came before.

Most people in the United States do not have this option. Their ancestors weren’t on the boat as early, or were denied the same opportunities, or were unlucky. If they run into car trouble around the holidays, they must take it out of the money that they might otherwise spend on Christmas presents for their kids, on family trips, or on visits to the dentist. Or they scrap their car and hope that a bus comes along. Millions of Americans live just one piece of misfortune away from utter financial ruin. Some of them may be lazy or unimaginative. Some of them might not have given their bootstraps a tug. But the vast majority are pulling with all of their might, and their fin-

gers are getting sore, but they stay locked in poverty, struggling to make things work out somehow. Until one day their brake pedal sinks to the floor and it all falls apart.

In the alleged economic recovery of the last few years, the type of middle class jobs that come with the type of salary that allows for saving have largely been replaced by low-wage or minimum wage jobs. With a federal minimum wage stuck at \$7.25 an hour, a worker who might need a car to get to their job every day would need to work for more than 160 hours — four full-time weeks — just to pay for those repairs. Ford could help by making more reliable cars, but the federal government can help by raising the minimum wage, which when adjusted for inflation is a third lower than its original level. Raising the minimum wage will not slow job growth, especially since many of the worker who would benefit work in service sector jobs that cannot move overseas. Instead, a raise in the wage would help to shift money from record corporate profits and executive compensation to the people who will immediately return that money to the economy. This is not because they lack in thrift, but because their daily needs exceed their daily income.

I have worked in a number of jobs throughout my time in college — landscaper, janitor, web designer, research assistant. For me this has always been a point of pride. I like to think of myself as financially independent and fiscally responsible. But this ignores some inconvenient realities. It ignores the nature of success and the nature of generational improvement. When you are one unexpected serious illness away from bankruptcy, or homelessness, or not being able to afford breakfast for your children — situations that plague millions of Americans — every day is a battle and every spin of the roulette wheel could be deadly. When you struggle to survive it is much more difficult to further your education or build a career. When you struggle to stay out of the ditch it is much more difficult to climb the slippery hill and look beyond it to the stars than if you started two thirds of the way up the slope, where the pitch starts to level. The American Dream is not a rocket ship, but rather a hard slog and the people just starting the trek do not deserve our scorn. They deserve our help.

Questionable Motives

The newspaper you are holding in your hands would read very differently had the school administration not deliberately shied away from an important civil dialog. This should reveal something to all of us about the attitude that the administration is taking on this issue, and even more importantly, why more people need to be talking about this right now.

One of the headlines that you might have found on the front page of this paper would read: Finance Experts Debate Value of Fossil Fuel Divestment, or more probably, Finance Experts Say Divestment “Can be Done”. But even though the administration promised one more panel and Middlebury College Vice President for Finance and Treasurer Patrick Norton confirmed that it would fall on Jan. 14, the panel did not happen.

Last year, the Middlebury College administration promised Divest Midd that the school would host three panels in total, the first with an array of professionals, a student and a representative from our investment manager, Investure. The second would feature students, and the third would be composed of financial experts. The first two have taken place already, and throughout the fall we were reassured that the third panel would happen. Yet, the date for the third panel has come and passed, and the administration did not host the panel. The only response we’ve heard from Norton is that the administration needs more time to reach out to speakers, many of whom were already identified by Divest Midd and the administration.

As is often the case, the real reason is more complicated. However, the reasons for having a third panel cannot be clearer. Finance experts are the ones who know the actual workings of how divestment can be done. They are

the ones who know the whole business better than do either students or administrators and who really can use their expertise in making this decision about whether or not to divest completely from fossil fuels. Each colleges’ situation is unique. That is why Middlebury needs its own divestment panel with finance experts.

The most fundamental question when it comes down to divestment is this: should the school care about where its money is coming from, and where it is going? If our money comes from investing in companies that have questionable business ethics, or disrespect the consequences of their malpractices, does the school have a moral obligation to pull out their investments in these companies? So long as this tension is not resolved, we still have to commit

ourselves to figuring out ways to at least ease this tension.

Yet, the administrators have postponed this important discussion indefinitely. Then we have to ask ourselves why. Are they afraid of an inconvenient truth? Why would they want to delay such an important conversation? Understandably, there are disincentives for the school to organize such a panel, because the status quo is less work and has lower risks. But are we, aware other students who care about the future of the College, along with all the staff and faculty who have a vision for this community, going to allow this to just happen? It doesn’t matter if you support divestment from fossil fuels or not, but how can the administrators be let off making a false procedural promise, until perhaps no meaningful actions regarding divestment can be taken by the end of the school year?

READER OPED

Zach Drennen '13.5 is from Canandaigua, NY

ger than to buy a car. When he bought it new in 2002, my grandfather had — rightly — called it the last car that he would ever own. It was my first.

I don’t pay the insurance on that car, either. My parents cover the cost of that through their policy (and if they haven’t given that recent thought, this will be a very expensive column for me). I pay for the gas and the maintenance costs, and for small repairs. But when calamity strikes, my parents are still my first call. This does necessarily not make me lazy; when my parents wanted to buy their first house, they too called their parents, who probably never could have called on their own for such a favor. If the goal of each generation is to leave their children better off, then success is not something that happens overnight. It builds over years, through family, across generations. We benefit from the hard work and good fortune of those who came before.

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“The most fundamental question when it comes down to divestment is this: should the school care about where its money is coming from, and where it is going?”

Staying Put

I am very comfortable with myself, thank you very much. I like to think I am confident with who and where I am. Do I regret not studying abroad? Me? Why would I ever regret something like that? You must have me confused with some

other less confident person! Okay, fine; maybe just a little kind of sort of dreading the semester when most of my people depart, leaving me flannel clad, exactly where I have been for the last two years.

Perhaps dread is too strong a word. In truth, I have looked for reasons to regret sticking around and have come up with few. After all, we do spend two years or so trying to figure college out only to decide that it is time for a break. On a more personal level, I feel I have earned my position as a junior Feb. I made it through angst freshman weekends and sophomore slumps to reach the good life. I'm nearly legal, I get to go skiing any time I like and do work I genuinely find fascinating. What's not to like?

Now I enjoy my friends, my sense of home and setting down my roots, so studying abroad was never truly in the cards for me. What I find particularly troubling is not that I am missing out on some great experience, but that people leave for reasons not necessarily abroad but here in Middlebury. The narrative of fantastic new lands to explore rarely seems to match the reality. It seems to be far more common for Middkids to leave because they simply want out of Middlebury for some time and see going abroad as that escape. I understand that, but that exchange seems to carry consequences beyond changing your country of residence for a few months.

As the first wave of my fellow juniors return there is a common theme in their response to "how was your study abroad?" There's usually a blank stare, maybe a few ums and ahs and then, "It was good. Really good." When pressed for details they are noncommittal and vague and you quickly look for a way out of the conversation.

I exaggerate, but in these responses there is another untold story: loneliness, hardship and genuine difficulty, and not the kind that builds character. Studying abroad is not the luxurious, adventurous experience we want it to be. It certainly can be, if done for the right reasons. A passion for a certain region and the chance for academic progress at different institutions are fantastic reasons. Needing to get out of Middlebury or simply because it seems to be the thing to do tend towards these stories of melancholic loneliness in a foreign land.

I wonder if part of it is just the need to reset. You get to return and reinvent yourself, give people time to grow up or work on themselves. But why do we choose that way to do it? Why not simply travel? Take time and go places and see things you want to see. Experience regions and cultures without the looming academic rigor. Go and take the experience you truly want, not the one imagined by the grandeur of studying abroad. Are we really convinced after all that at an academic level these schools outdo Middlebury? A handful, sure, but all of them?

I do not mean to simply rant at our study abroad system. In truth I think it provides some incredible experiences for the right people. If students want to have terrific experiences abroad they need a better reason than wanting to leave Middlebury. And we can't ignore the very real challenges that being in a foreign country presents. This takes tenacious, outgoing people with global mindsets and usually quite a bit of optimism. I lack many of those things. So when asked whether or not I am study abroad I am comfortable with my response. For me, that experience of loneliness and melancholy seems to be more real than an incredible time abroad.

We have a terrific luxury in our ability to travel around the world and we would be misusing our time if we did not do it as often as we could. There is time for travel and experience beyond studying abroad though. For those of us considering it, I hope there is a sincere reflection on the motivation to study abroad so we can hopefully avoid summing up what should be terrific experiences with, "It was really good."

THE UNPOPULAR OPINION

Andrew DeFalco '15-5
is from Toronto, Canada

READER OPED

Jonathan Brach '13-5
is from Melrose, MA

Top Graduation Speeches

The start of J-term is one of the happiest times of the year for Middlebury students. Unless you are one of those masochistic types who has opted to take J-Orgo or a CW, most Middkids have plenty of free time to ski, sleep, and relax. For me, J-term has always been a good time for soul-searching and some of the best possible soul-searching can be done with the aid of graduation speeches. Think about it: some of the world's most successful people are asked to summarize the most valuable things they have learned in life in twenty minutes or less. Every year, scores of speakers across the US take up this challenge and his or her words are ingrained forever in the immortal walls of the internet. Here are ten of my favorite graduation speeches. I bet you a Dr. Feel-Good that you will find yourself inspired by at least one of them.

1. Cyma Zarghami (UVM, 2012)

This UVM alumna and president of Nickelodeon gives graduates reasons not to despair as they enter a tough job market. Warning: be prepared to listen to Spongebob diss Middlebury at the end of the speech.

2. Bill Watterson (Kenyon College, 1990)

The legendary cartoonist of Calvin and Hobbes describes how he took procrastination to a whole new level by recreating Michelangelo's "Creation of Adam" from the Sistine Chapel on the ceiling of his dorm room. He also gives a lot of great advice on how to live a good life.

3. Oprah Winfrey (Spelman College, 2012)

Oprah shares three valuable pieces of advice with graduates of one of America's oldest historically black colleges for women.

4. Steve Jobs (Stanford, 2005)

Ever wonder if that class you're taking will be of any use to you in the future? Jobs describes how if he hadn't taken a calligraphy class while he was at Reed, computers probably wouldn't have the wide array of typefaces and fonts that they have today.

5. JK Rowling (Harvard, 2008)

Rowling, who with the success of Harry Potter became wealthier than the Queen of England, tells graduates that she herself was the biggest failure she knew seven years after her college graduation. She ends her speech by describing the power that imagination has to change the world.

6. Salman Khan (MIT, 2012)

The founder of the revolutionary educational website Khan Academy takes graduates through a powerful and entertaining thought experiment that has allowed him to live a life with minimal regrets.

7. Michelle Obama (Virginia Tech, 2012)

The First Lady takes a unique approach of giving a commencement speech by focusing on the lessons that the Hokie Nation has taught her in the wake of their 2007 school shooting rather than imparting her own advice to graduates.

8. Jonathan Safran Foer (Middlebury College, 2013)

In this speech, Foer makes the best argument that I have heard against the pursuit of human immortality. After listening to this speech, you will also find yourself spending more time taking in the scenery as you walk across campus and less time staring at your phone.

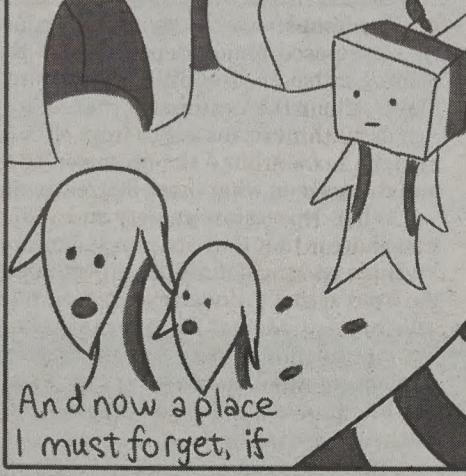
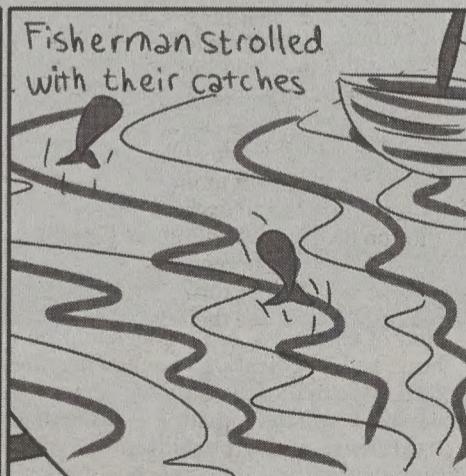
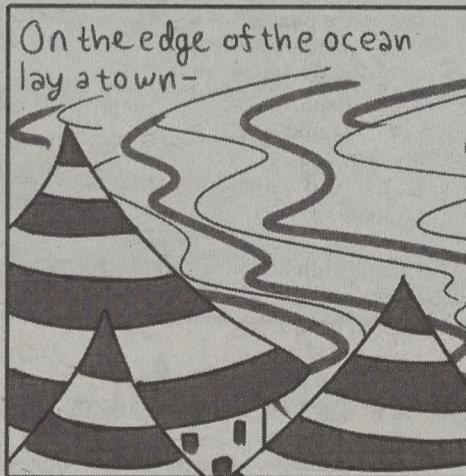
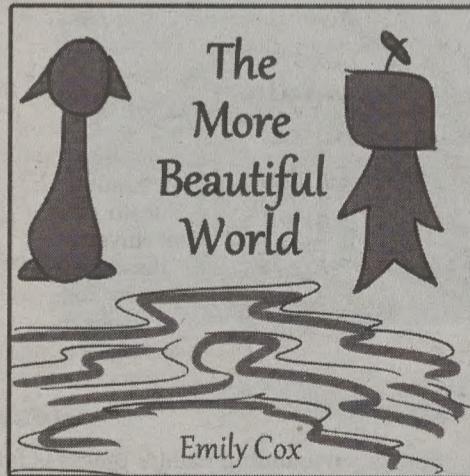
9. Ellen DeGeneres (Tulane, 2009)

Addressing the "Katrina Class," DeGeneres details how she does not regret for a second her decision to come out publicly as a lesbian, even though it resulted in the canceling of her sitcom. Staying true to herself allowed her to make a return to television with an extremely successful talk show.

10. David McCullough, Jr. (Wellesley High School, 2012)

In this controversial, yet amazing, graduation speech, a high school English teacher tells his former students point-blank that none of them is special. A good reminder for most of us Middkids as well.

THE MORE BEAUTIFUL WORLD



EMILY COX

For the Gifted Delinquent

Before having ever stepped foot inside my freshman dorm, I had already landed myself in academic hot water. I had not been performing to the academic standard that was expected of me upon my acceptance to Middlebury College, and I was warned to do better. Before I was even an official student, there was already a concern about whether I would

AUDACITY OF CONSCIENCE

Debanjan Roychoudhury '16 is from New York, NY

make it here amidst the — often understated — competitive Middlebury environment.

Needless to say, I was slacking.

Balancing varsity basketball with Shakespearean theater rehearsal plus having to meet with my Posse Scholarship cohorts once a week and keep up with a multitude of other organizations proved to be very difficult when added to the already rigorous curriculum of my super fancy selective enrollment high school in TriBeCa, a one and a half hour trek from my mother's and father's homes in Jamaica, Queens.

Stuyvesant High School doesn't slow down first semester senior year, and for a kid who already had trouble keeping up, all that stress hitting me at once was becoming very overwhelming. I thought I could scrape by, and in the end I did, but it wasn't without the few stern talking-to's, the stomach-dropping letter home, the occasional tears, and the always-present self-doubt that have stuck with me ever since.

I still don't know if I belong here. I'm not built without rough edges, in or outside of the classroom, and I'm not the only one who feels that way. While in elementary school, I received disciplinary action quite often. Being sent to detention was customary, the principal knew about me for all the wrong reasons, and teachers would often scold me for being too talkative in class.

I never fit the cookie-cutter model for

admissions, here or anywhere else. In middle school my grades were solid but nothing really extraordinary, and I had many of the same issues that I did in elementary school. Fortunately — and I use that word with reluctance — I tested well enough on the Specialized High School Admissions Test to place into one of the most selective public schools in the city.

I most certainly did not thrive academically at Stuyvesant, but I did well enough to stay relatively afloat when it came time for college applications. I suppose everyone dismissed my subpar performances especially in math and science classes as an inability to grasp quantitative concepts. Perhaps it was attributed to my just being lazy. I'm not sure what people thought or currently think — students, teachers, mentors, tutors, etc. I do know, however, that there is much more to classroom behavior than meets the eye.

School has always been hard for me, but not because I am not intelligent or because I don't want to do the work. I don't believe that anybody truly dislikes learning. Even if that were true, I don't think that that correlates with academic success or lack thereof. I do believe, however, that there are people for whom school is hauntingly alienating. In second grade when two friends and I fought a kid for referring to us as n-words, we were not displaying juvenile and criminal behavior. We were merely fighting back in a hostile environment, where prejudice was pervasive and where we seldom felt supported. Middlebury College can often feel the same.

My "bad kid" behavior growing up was attributed to some type of flaw that could presumably be fixed with a new wave teaching method of discipline, which involved hole punches and circles, stickers and sad faces or whatever bogus device my disciplinarians decided was appropriate. Not once was it considered that something might be of concern outside the classroom. Rarely was it taken into account that maybe I wasn't behaving in a delinquent manner

because I was incapable of learning, but because so much else was on my mind. With each successive punishment be it detention, letters, or phone calls home, I don't believe I grew more motivated but rather more removed.

Throughout my schooling process, though I exhibited poor behavioral conduct, I also demonstrated great intellectual ability and academic potential in other ways. While I fought and got in trouble in elementary school, I also competed with my school's math team. I tested into an eighth grade gifted program on an exam that included all types of complex riddles and puzzles and things not normally found in Kaplan, Stuyvesant, or even Middlebury classrooms. Eventually I was admitted to Middlebury College on the Posse Scholarship which looked into much more than just GPA, and despite being watched carefully for fear of not being able to keep up, I've been a dean's list student all of my three semesters here.

Anyone who has taken Education in the USA with Tara Affolter or Jonathan Miller-Lane knows that you don't check your identity at the schoolhouse gate. I am still the same kid who acted out when I was younger, who couldn't sit still in class. I was diagnosed with Attention Deficit-Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD) at the same time that safety at home was beginning to become a concern due to domestic violence. To not recognize that the latter was completely complicit in the former was a failure on the part of any school system that I have been a part of. I could not check at the classroom door what had been going on outside of it. It's time we start recognizing that for every struggling student.

In many ways I suppose I've overcome my obstacles, though I haven't completely conquered all my academic weaknesses. What bothers me though is how many other students won't have the same unique path that was carved out for me. There are

too many gifted kids who aren't fortunate enough to maximize their academic and intellectual potential, not because they are any less smart than any student here or at any other elite private institution, but simply because no teacher or mentor has taken the time to find out what's going on for them outside of class — those students who aren't placed on a math team, or whose parents can't afford to get them a little extra preparation for placement exams, or those students who don't live in a region where scholarship programs like Posse exist.

We live in a nation where we use "reading achievement levels of students in the third grade as a basis for projecting the number of future prison beds needed," according to the National Center on Education, Disability and Juvenile Justice. It is scary the kind of life that we as a society imagine for each other. If we choose to create a more educationally equal environment, it's time we start recognizing giftedness everywhere that it exists and stop dismissing it at the first sign of behavioral delinquency.

*"This is a song for the genius child.
Sing it softly, for the song is wild.
Sing it softly as ever you can -
Lest the song get out of hand."*

Nobody loves a genius child.

*Can you love an eagle,
Tame or wild?
Can you love an eagle,
Wild or tame?
Can you love a monster
Offrightening name?*

Nobody loves a genius child.

Kill him - and let his soul run wild."

—Langston Hughes

Empathizing with Mental Illness

Mental illness is not a personal shortcoming; it is a disease that is exacerbated by the shame that comes with stigma.

We as a society gravely misunderstand mental illness. While we are universally willing to treat bacterial infections, mental illness is presumed to be a personal shortcoming rather than a chronic illness.

Treatment is associated with acceptance of being "sick," rather than the brave pursuit of being healthy. This is backwards: expert consensus dictates that mental illness, such as addiction, is best conceived as a chronic, often fatal, disease.

The truth is, as a disease, mental illness must be treated not only by "willpower," but by personal, chemical, behavioral and even spiritual modifications in a manner not unlike treating other chronic illnesses like heart disease. Nonetheless, there remains a stigma around mental illness: it's more shameful than being physically ill.

Rather than conceiving of mental illness as a failure, we should think of it as a character-defining challenge: just as cancer survivors are held as heroes in American society, so should surviving addicts and depressives be idolized for their valor, resilience and adaptability.

We are each psychologically limited, emotionally vulnerable and personally fallible in ways beyond our control (but not beyond hope). We underestimate the constant threat that forces beyond our conscious, rational control pose to us. Some arise outside of us: we cannot comprehend the constant possibility of world-shattering tragedy or of experiencing a traumatic event. Some threats to our well-being grow from within, which is not to say that they are preventable.

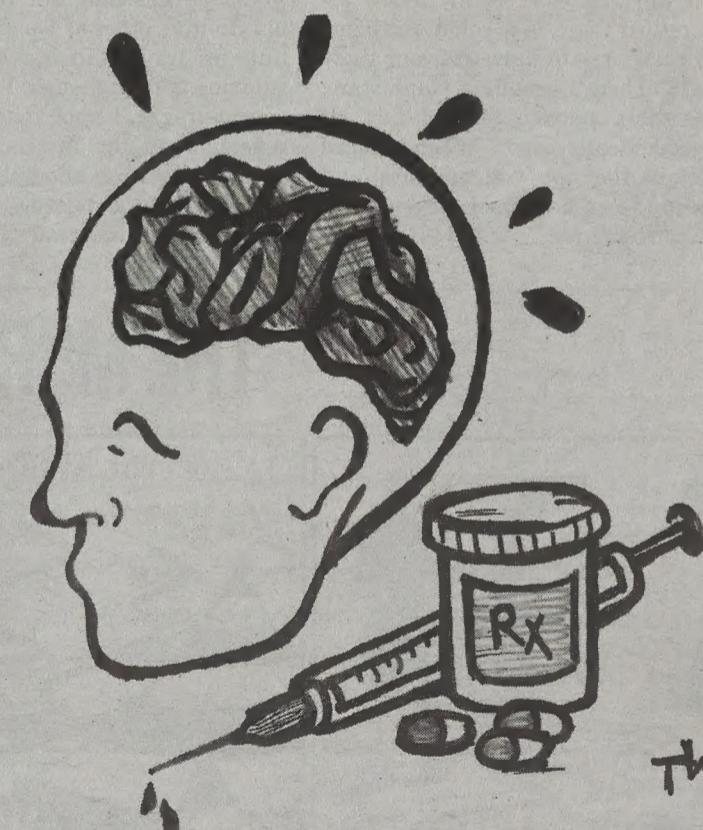
The experience of the mentally ill is completely incomprehensible to those without their disease; the healthy cannot possibly fathom the depth of their suffering nor the impossibility of small,

daily tasks for somebody with a severe mental illness. However, inability for the healthy among us to empathize does not mean we are immune: once we understand that mental illness is not a question of will-power, nor deterministic, we must accept that each of us — as impossible as it is to comprehend — are vulnerable to mental illness.

For example, many perceive drug addicts as selfish, manipulative and, perhaps most damning, purposeless. The truth, however, is that addiction is a twisted, ruthless disease from which no one can be certain they are safe. The aforementioned traits of addiction are not common to people who become addicted, but are symptoms of the illness of which we are all capable. The moralization of addiction that lies at the heart of American drug policy is profoundly counter-productive, demonizing the sick and fetishizing "law and order" at the cost of the civil liberties of vulnerable individuals and communities.

To acknowledge that one is an addict and to receive treatment is not an admission of weakness, but a proclamation of hope and a dedication to achieving one's own potential. The case for restorative versus retributive justice — essentially treatment and rehabilitation versus punishment and deterrence — basically makes itself when you have the facts.

While it is clear that some are more predisposed to mental illness like depression or addiction than others — the role of genetics and trauma are among the major risk factors — the plasticity and complexity of neurological functions means that nobody can be certain they are safe. And this is not a small issue, nor one limited by class: law-abiding, loving, likable people get hooked on legal painkillers like prescribed oxycodone ("Oxy" or "Percoset," but basically reformulated heroin) every day: in fact, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, nine percent of America has abused such opiates despite many starting with a legal prescription. 22 percent of Americans, according to Alcoholics Anonymous, have abused alcohol.



In addition, approximately one in eleven Americans, according to the CDC, are depressed; one in 25 were "majorly" depressed. Major depression is the leading cause of disability in the United States. The ADAA estimates that almost one in five Americans suffer from clinical anxiety. Look around the room you're in and think about what those figures mean.

What depression, anxiety and addiction share is that they are non-voluntary, invisible and, by definition, prevent people from acting rationally or in their own self-interest. Mental illness can hollow out vibrant, fascinating people, wasting human potential not only for the affected, but impacting families, social networks and workplaces.

You and I are vulnerable. Only by acknowledging that vulnerability can we proactively protect ourselves from illness that can rob us of our vividness.

Stigma surrounding mental illness is far more than antiquated: it is self-loathing. This is not about liberal ideology, political correctness, or anecdotal defense of the character of those suffering from mental illness. No. To recognize one's own fallibility is a necessary act of self-preservation.

The truth is that, at one point or another, each of us will need to rely on others to thrive and even to survive. The modesty to accept the possibility that some day we may need help, even if times are good at present, is incredibly important. Acknowledging the possibility of our own future mental illness is not weak, but wise, because only by holding within us a willingness to fight can we overcome or manage such a dangerous disease. After all, being relatively happy — and functional — is not selfish, but a prerequisite for helping others.



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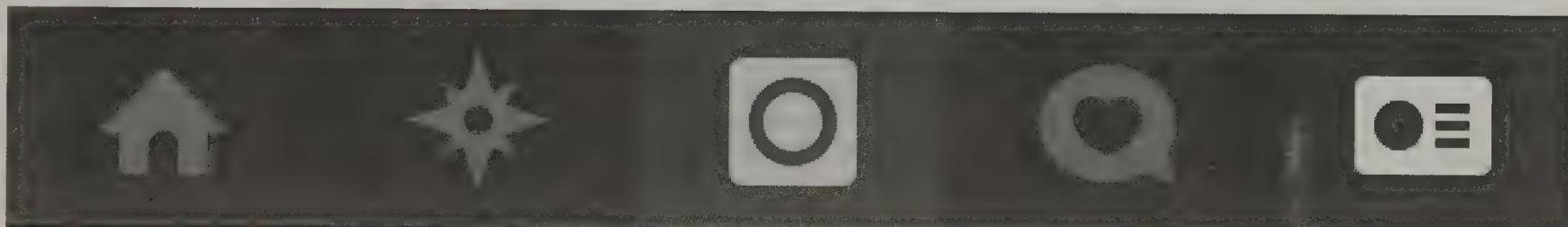


Like



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12 FEATURES

HOLLY BURKE '15

START ANCHORAGE TRANSPORTATION



MAJOR HICCUPS: 2

PORTLAND, OR

PRESTIGE SHOWWEAR

START SAN FRAN TRANSPORTATION



MAJOR HICCOUPS: 1

MIKA TAN '15

The Megabus from Boston that was cancelled was the second cancellation that I experienced that day – first my flight from New York got cancelled, hence the decision to take Megabus back to Middlebury (New York-Boston-Burlington), but at the Boston stop, they cancelled the Megabus that would bring me home. But I'm really glad my dad got me a credit card, which finally allowed us to rent a car! (We originally only had debit cards, which didn't allow us to rent cars.) But as with using parents' credit cards, any transaction has to be declared to them, and that added unnecessary worry for them because I had to explain that we were going to drive (overnight!) back to Middlebury when Megabus had cancelled their bus due to icy and bad road conditions, and still let them think that I was going to make it back alive and well. Oops!

I've also heard of other crazy travel misadventures – a friend of mine was driving his car up from New York to Middlebury with a bunch of other students, and since he's from North Carolina his car didn't have winter tires. They skidded off the road into a ditch, and had to wait throughout the night for a rescue vehicle to get them out. The rescue vehicle couldn't get there any sooner because they were also delayed due to bad road conditions! So they huddled and slept in the car, waiting.

Another friend of mine managed to find a company that chartered two vans at \$650 each to drive a bunch of students up from New York! Sounds like everyone had some exciting travel stories to tell!

PRESTIGE SHONGWE '16

I was going from San Francisco to Boston on Sunday morning. Everything worked well – I thought my flights would be cancelled. I arrived in Boston at 2:35 p.m. and I had a connecting Greyhound at 11:50 p.m. So I spent the time at South Station and it's not the warmest place. At 11:50, I'm on the queue, getting ready to board my bus. There's a girl in front of me, Holly Burke '15 [see Holly's account]. She's flying from Alaska and she's had a much more gruesome journey than I had. She's just ready to board this goddam bus, let's put it that way. Right when we were in queue, they say the bus is cancelled – I say I'm not spending the night here. And we see two other Midkids, Mika Tan '15 who flew from Singapore and Roy [Wang] '15 who flew from China. Holly's the one who takes the commanding role and the whole reason the bus was cancelled was because the road was icy. Holly says, 'Guys, Alaska has trained me my whole life for this moment to drive on this highway today. And by this point it is 1:30 a.m. We hear that one car just skidded off the road. But the goal was to make it to the first class of J-Term. And essentially, let's be honest, we were pulling the first all-nighter of J-Term. I'm very thankful that Holly took her time.

JESSICA HURST

START: SAN FRANCISCO TRANSPORTATION



MAJOR HICCUPS: 2

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

J-TERM, DELUXE TALES FROM THE P

COMPILED BY

HOLLY DURKEE '19

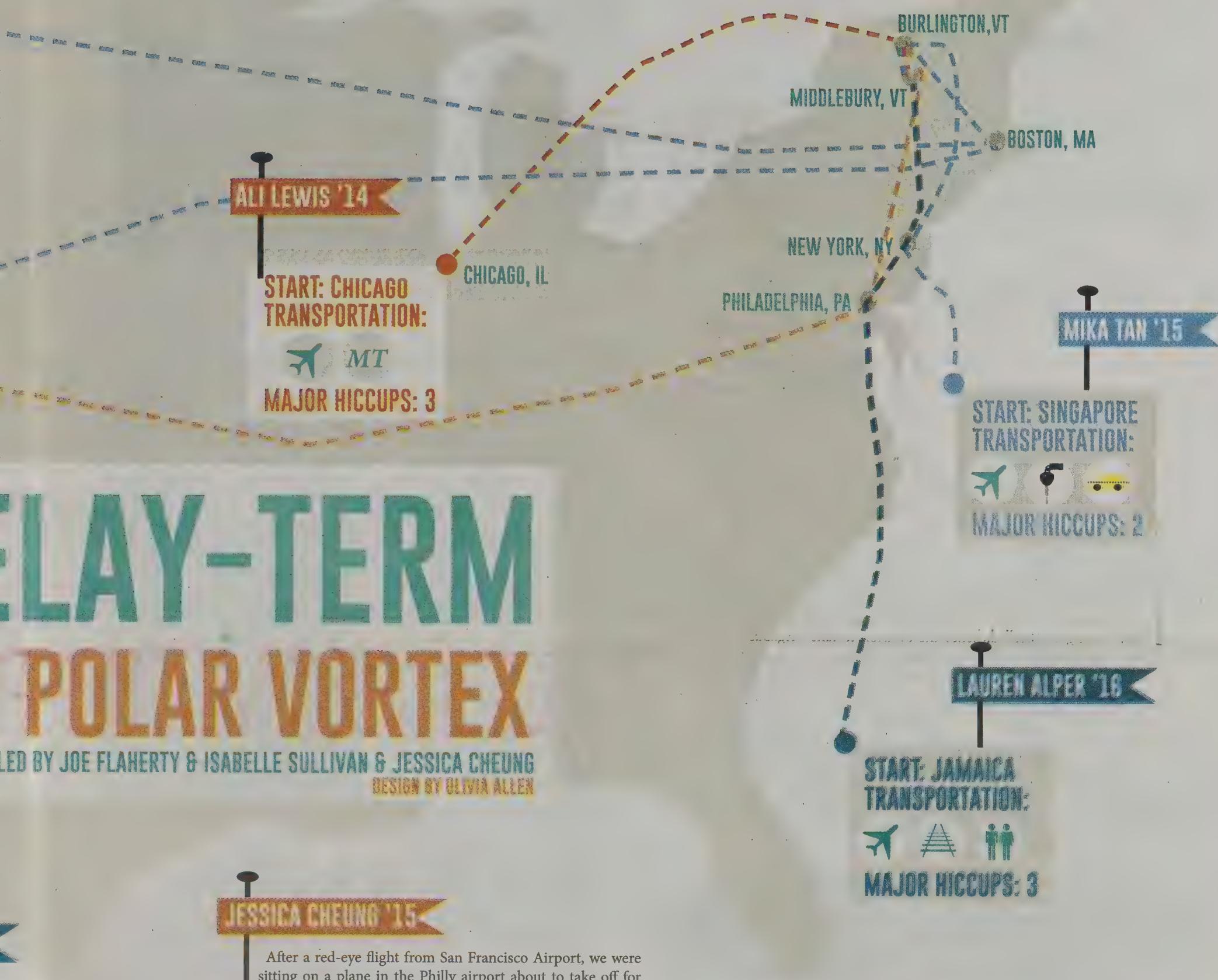
My first flight out of Anchorage was supposed to go through Chicago to Burlington but that of course got cancelled. I spent three hours waiting in line at the United [Airlines] counter to see if they could reschedule but they wouldn't give me a flight out until Wednesday. Luckily I was able to get the last seat on a flight Saturday night out of Anchorage to Portland and from there I was able to fly to Boston. The plan was to take a Greyhound [bus] from Boston to Burlington on Sunday night and share a ride back to campus but our bus was cancelled due to bad road conditions.

It was at this point that Prestige (who I had only just met standing in line for the Greyhound) recognized Roy and Mika, and the four of us decided to rent a car to get back to school. Mika had a driver's license but she had never driven on ice before, so we all decided that I would drive; lucky for us, Hertz lets you drive a rental car at age 20. By the time we got back to Logan airport and rented the car it was almost 2:30 in the morning but we drove straight from Boston to White River Junction, Vt. without stopping. That part of the trip was really slow going; they didn't have anyone plowing the roads overnight so I spent a lot of time driving well under the 45 mph minimum speed on I-89 through New Hampshire. We didn't want to end up like the many cars we saw in roadside ditches that night.

We finally made it to Burlington around 8:00 a.m. and were able to return the rental car and share a taxi back to Middlebury. Even though it was a totally exhausting and definitely my most frustrating trip back to school, we almost made up for it in quality time, including some pretty excellent radio sing-a-longs, with people I otherwise might have never gotten to know. Plus, I made it back in time for my class on Monday.

LAUREN ALPER '18

Caroline Walters '16.5 and I were in Burlington on Saturday, January 4. We took a bus to the Jamaica airport to find that our flight was delayed. We waited in security for two hours, and then updated us that the customs connection (our flight connection) was closed, but that we were given special permission. Before we boarded the plane, we were told our flight attendant got sick and the flight was canceled. US Airways put us up in a hotel, and we were later to come back to the airport when the flight was rescheduled. We got on the plane finally, but it was Sunday. Unfortunately, all flights were canceled. We decided to get crafty so we took a bus to the bus station where we got on a Bolt Bus to New York City. From there, flights out of NYC to Burlington for the night were being canceled every minute. We were told that our flight was delayed for two hours, and then four hours. Finally, we were told it was canceled. JetBlue offered us hotel rooms or meal vouchers, and all hotels surrounding the airport were closed. We ended up staying at a guesthouse in Tarrytown, where I shared a full-size bed with Caroline. We woke up in the morning, and instead of taking a bus to the airport, we took a train to Bedford, NY and met up with Ellie '16. Ellie drove us 5 hours to Middletown, NY for the night. In all, it took us 56 hours from when we were supposed to take 7 hours. We were aware that we were going to be late, but we were still surprised at how long it took us.



LED BY JOE FLAHERTY & ISABELLE SULLIVAN & JESSICA CHEUNG

DESIGN BY OLIVIA ALLEN

and I were traveling from Jamaica to Middlebury on January 4. We got to the Montego Bay airport at 6 a.m., but our flight was delayed 4 hours. We waited for 4 hours, and were then told at the gate that our flight was delayed until 10 p.m. The gate agents checked customs at the Philly airport (our flight was delayed but we would still be able to get in). Before we boarded the plane, we were told that we got sick and that the flight was canceled. We got up in a hotel, and we got up 3 hours early to catch our flight to the airport where our flight was delayed again. Finally, we made it to Philly. Now, we were stuck in Philly for 4 hours, all flights out of Philly were canceled so we took a train to the train station. We took the Bolt Bus to NYC. We booked Jet Blue for our flight to Burlington for that night. Once we got to NYC, we were told that our flight was delayed an hour, then another hour. Finally at 3 in the morning, our flight was canceled. Jet Blue refused to give us hotel vouchers and all hotel airports and hotels in the area were closed. We got a hotel in Manhattan with a king-size bed with two of my friends. We stayed there instead of dealing with JFK again. We got to Middlebury and met our friend Ellie Lovering. We got to Middlebury, where we arrived Monday morning. It was 10 hours from Jamaica, when it was supposed to be 8 hours. We were awake for 52 of those hours.

After a red-eye flight from San Francisco Airport, we were sitting on a plane in the Philly airport about to take off for Burlington. The plane even drove off from the gate, and then it stopped. The plane stopped and we sat for three hours before the captain announced the plane would not be taking off due to mechanical issues. There we were: eight Middkids stranded in the Philly airport in the eye of constant chaos. "Next flight out to Burlington will be on Wednesday, three days from now," the customer service lady said. I, with my friend, booked a 10-hour Amtrak ride that would leave for Burlington the next day. So, we spent this day — the day we were stuck in Philly — in a customer service line for 4 hours, with much optimism that the airline would compensate us with hotel vouchers.

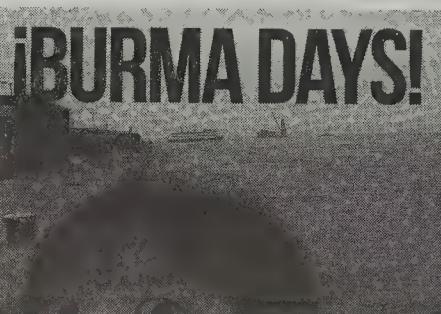
But no dice. After standing in a painfully long line with over 200 people ahead of us, our flight was registered as cancelled due to "weather." Weather? Our plane was not towed off the tarmac due to the "weather." It was indeed a mechanical failure but U.S. Airways didn't want to admit it in order to avoid giving out hotel vouchers. So, we stayed in Philly that night and hopped on the Amtrak the next day, grabbing seats that we later realized faced the bathroom. There, I witnessed a whole new kind of privilege outside the Middlebury bubble, where real living adults, despite reading three signs taped inside and on the bathroom door that said 'close the bathroom door after use,' left the door wide open after use. Finally, after 10 hours on Amtrak, I was graced by a 60 degree temperature drop from San Francisco. Freezing meant I was closer to school. I was close, but not quite there when we realized: retrieving our baggage from the Burlington airport luggage lot will be an entirely new epic.

TRANSPORTATION KEY:



ALI LEWIS '14

I was meant to fly to Middlebury on Sunday morning, but my flight from Chicago to Burlington was cancelled and rescheduled for Thursday. I (of course) couldn't get through to United Airlines by calling and spent a total of seven hours on hold, but ultimately was able to get a flight to Chicago on Wednesday evening (it was 1°F there!) and then to Middlebury on Thursday morning. The last challenge at the end of it all was that my car battery died because of the cold over break, so my friend couldn't use it to pick me up from the airport, but I was luckily able to get a MiddTransit ride back.



By Joy Zhu

It is politically incorrect to call Myanmar 'Burma' because of its colonial connotations, but the new name 'Myanmar' is also politically incorrect, as it is the name of only one of its many ethnicities. While the United States supports the former name, as the country under its current name is ruled under a military dictatorship, we have certainly forgotten about the self-determination the name 'Myanmar' implies.

Ironically, when I revealed to a friend of mine that I was going to Myanmar, he was very excited and told me to take pictures of its colonial architecture. Predictably, he turned out to be one of the many colonial fanatics in Hong Kong. I have to admit, given that I knew next to nothing about the country other than the fact that it's where Aung San Suu Kyi came from and that it has a reputation of being overwhelmingly pious (Buddhist), its colonial history naturally appealed to my interest.

Apparently, it is common practice for colonial architectures to assume the design features of a mixture of cultures. The former legislative council building of Hong Kong had its pitched roof assembled in double pan and roll Chinese tiles, which serves to prevent leakage during Hong Kong's heavy rain seasons. The Governor's House is built in a hybrid of Japanese neo-classical and colonial Renaissance style. Yangon has its own impressive repertoire of colonial architectures. Spread across a whole block, the red-bricked Yangon General hospital is one of the most impressive stretches of Victorian architecture I've seen outside of Britain. Built next to the Boyoke Market, the Holy Trinity Cathedral features elements of the Indo-Saracenic style, which was originally developed out of the colonizers' appeal for Asian exotic aesthetics. One of the distinctive characteristics of colonial architecture in Myanmar was long windows and high ceilings — perhaps to enhance ventilation and heat dissipation in this intensely tropical climate.

Since our trip was primarily medical in nature, we didn't have time to visit these buildings in detail. However, we did visit one hospital specializing in neurological ailments, which was converted from a British-built school. While its architecture inside was intact, the wooden structures and profuse courtyard were incompatible with standards of hygiene for yearly operations on over a thousand patients. Dimly lit and derelict, it existed in a different time-space continuum from our operation theaters. "The equipment can go to the museum," one of the Myanma doctors who worked in Hong Kong joked. Indeed, the surgical equipment, along with the building itself, serves a far better purpose as a means of cultural preservation rather than the preservation of lives.

Apart from the few monuments I saw, it is a pity that much of the colonial architecture has fallen into disrepair, their facades becoming soiled and dilapidated with time. Known for its resistance to British colonial rule, it is perhaps because of politics that colonial architecture doesn't seem to be of importance in Yangon's heritage. Instead, the most immaculately preserved monuments were Buddhist. The abundance of Japanese buses and cars also seems to be telling of Myanmar's antagonism to colonial rule. Apparently Myanmar's friendly relations with Japan began with the Japanese invasion of Myanmar in WWII. Feeling antagonistic toward the British and an affinity for Asians, many aligned with the Japanese.

Yangon, as a former British colony, is an interesting juxtaposition to Hong Kong. It is perhaps because of its deeply rooted sense of national identity that there was so much resistance to imperialism, while Hong Kong generally welcomed British administration, as it catalyzed our rapid development and implemented efficient systems as opposed to communist rule. There were certainly more than a few governors whom Hong Kong welcomed and loved. While Myanmar may have had a more developed economy had the British wielded a greater influence in their country, it is undeniable that a country's self-determination should be respected as a person is to be respected.

Stranger on Snowden, Professor Talks History of Whistleblowing

By Anastasia Capatina

After a year of news stories about Edward Snowden and other whistleblowers, Russell J. Leng '60 Professor of International Politics and Economics Allison Stanger set the record straight on Jan. 10.

Talking about the cases of Edward Snowden, the NSA, and WikiLeaks, Stanger was critical of those she defined as whistleblowers while also seeming to embrace the long-standing American tradition.

"Reverence for whistleblowing is at the heart of the American exception, and it's one of America's signature features," she said. "Though not commonly perceived as such, whistleblowing is a quintessentially American activity with a long history."

Stanger spoke to a noticeably older audience, which gathered in the sardined conference room of the Robert A. Jones '59 House to hear the professor present her talk titled "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Leaks: The Story of Whistleblowing in America."

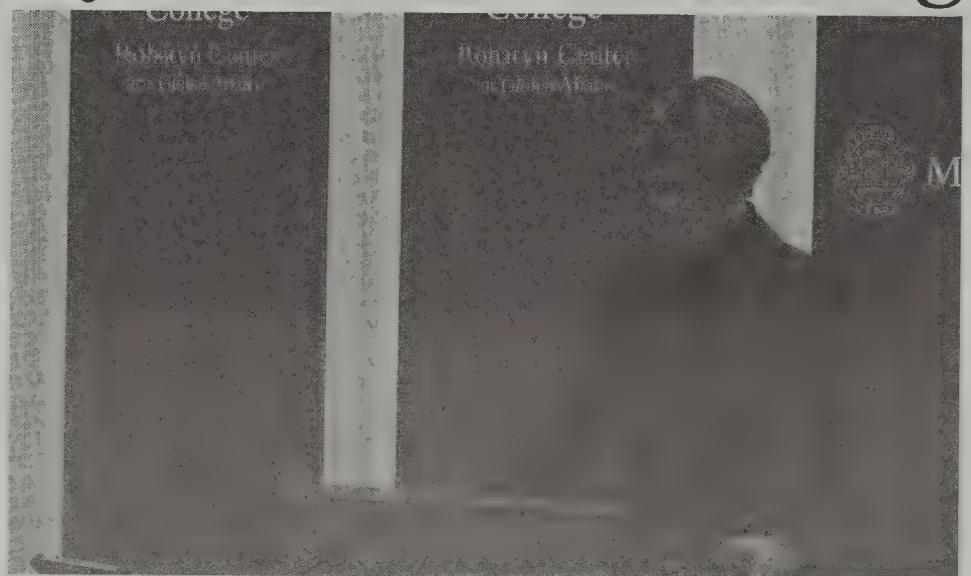
One of the few students in attendance was Kate McCreary '15. A student of political science and education, McCreary came to the talk out of pure curiosity.

"One thing I liked was that [Stanger] was really focused on legality; the law for the protection of whistleblowers includes those who revealed not only actions that are illegal but also improper," McCreary said. "I was talking to my friends about this afterwards. It seems almost worse if there were something the government was doing that was legal but that the majority of Americans would disagree with if they knew about it."

Stanger, who holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Harvard University and has taught Political Science and Economics at Middlebury 23 years, is about to add a second book (*Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Leaks*) to her repertoire of contributions to the world of political science.

A main point in her discussion was the influence of technology on national security, especially in reference to the National Security Agency (NSA).

"The Fourth Amendment protects your personal home computer from illegal search and seizure," Stanger said. "But once you post anything up in the 'cloud,' you lose that protection. The Fourth Amendment's protection largely ends where virtual reality begins, since Americans are volunteering to



Courtesy of Nestor Martinez

Professor of International Politics Allison Stanger discusses leaking information.

share in this way and are not being forced to do so."

Stanger highlighted these nuances when talking about the case of Edward Snowden, who she says is not yet declared a whistleblower and who, "if the Supreme Court were to rule that some of the NSA activities were unconstitutional... would probably morph from a traitor to a patriot."

Another issue brought up was the conflict between democracy and security.

"Democracy demands that the people know what the government is doing... but this is what I call the paradox of whistleblowing in America. On the one hand, Americans view whistleblowing as valuable. On the other, they implicitly range security as the supreme value trumping all others."

Democracy, at the core of our American identity, plays an integral role in whistleblowing, and in the industrialized world, Stanger points to how the two are in some ways co-dependent.

On this point, McCreary said, "Something that I found really interesting, and refreshing too, was that [Stanger] was super critical of a lot of the ways that our country does national security, but also, at the end, seemed to really adhere to the idea of American exceptionalism in that regard. I thought that was a combination that doesn't normally happen."

"American democracy was not designed

to serve capitalism and free markets alone — it was designed to serve the people," Stanger said.

Stanger said the problems plaguing a world power create inaction on the part of most citizens.

"Today, plagued by financial scandals, we seem both fearful of corruption and resigned to it. We seem uncertain about whom it hurts and what difference it ultimately makes" Stanger said.

In the end, Stanger suggested, whistleblowers may have more conviction than the average American.

"The republic seems to be perpetually corrupted, but instead of being outraged, we are not sure it matters. Well, whistleblowers think it matters," Stanger said.

The result, Stanger said, was that whistleblowers embody an American value of wanting to do more.

"Whistleblowers take things everyone views as natural or inescapable and say that they aren't. And, in so doing, challenge all of us to dream of a better day," Stanger said. "What can be more American than that?"

As for the older audience, McCreary explained, "There are normally more students. One reason for their absence is that people went skiing. Also the subject of this talk is more accessible and interesting to a broader audience so that probably is why more townspeople wanted to be there to hear it."



By Ryan Kim

For my next date, I went to lunch at Otter Creek Bakery with Agnes.* My best friend, Edgar,* who plays on a varsity team with Agnes, had introduced us a couple times before. However, our interactions were always fairly brief and insubstantial, so we became acquaintances of awkward proximity — we knew each others' names, but little else.

Despite being two years older, I was a little intimidated by Agnes; she's pretty sexy. It's easy to deflect my own ineptitude with girls by blaming them as standoffish, when in reality I just need a chance to dig deeper. It's also easy to be unnerved by a fetching lady, having never had a solid conversation with her to humanize the physical attraction.

Agnes and I ended up in a science class together last semester, which put a personality behind the pretty face. Turns out, Agnes is as cool as the beets in the salad bar, and cool as the beets in a Drake bar. I admired as she nonchalantly shrugged off the professor's teasing. Agnes also sat sweetly in the Goldilocks Zone, neither friend nor stranger. For all these reasons, I asked her out.

Dining, Dating & Dashing

Last month, we went to Otter Creek Bakery (OCB) for lunch on my birthday. I love the place and, over my Middlebury career, have become friends with the staff and many of the regulars. Tim,* who worked that day, even shares my birthday and bought me my first legal drink last year. However, there's only indoor seating during the winter, so I worried it'd get a bit too intimate when the lunch rush subsided, with my friends behind the counter listening in on my date — almost like taking Agnes to meet the cousins.

I was wrong. I didn't feel cramped by the familiarity at all. OCB is a bright, bustling atmosphere at lunchtime, filled with gleaming pastry cases, the waft of hot coffee and happy people. No one begrudgingly comes to the Bakery for a latte. Tim cordially brought us a couple delicious sandwiches — the gentleman — but otherwise left us alone. Ultimately, the venue, well-lit and lively at midday, gave our date a terrifically casual and noncommittal air.

Conversationally, I really enjoyed Agnes' confident nonchalance. Instead of cautious introductions, we skipped a lot of the decorous nonsense and spoke like real people who actually have a lot in common. We talked about Edgar, teasing him because it was fun to. My friend was her First-year Counselor (FYC) last year, so we teased him too. Her aunt teaches at the Putney School, my alma mater, and we discovered a lot of mutual friends. We swapped embarrassing stories of our youths as schoolyard bullies and walked the long way home, through Marble Works.

For some reason, I've always thought

of the first date as a more serious event, and the second date as a more relaxed occasion, something chill like mini-golfing. My date with Agnes was proof that casual first dates are really fun and do a lot to diminish the grave intensity that dating typically has. I had a wonderful time with Agnes but don't feel committed at all and would feel great about going on a second date and totally fine about not.

*names have been changed

AGNES RATES THE DATE

LOW **HIGH** **10** **10**
conversation on Putney & mutual friends sandwich was tough to eat gracefully

8 **10**
VENUE RYAN

COMMENT
"3 people on 3 separate occasions ... declared Ryan was the King of Otter Creek Bakery."

SECOND DATE?
"Yeah, why not."

HVAC Crew Braves the Cold to Keep You Warm

By Joe Flaherty

For the heating and cooling team within Facilities Services, December through January is their Super Bowl. With huge swings in temperature, Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) staff like Scott Barker have to keep buildings heated at a comfortable temperature without wasting en-



ergy from the Biomass facility. Buildings across campus, many of them old, cannot always be trusted to handle the influx of steam from beneath the Biomass Plant. On a chilly afternoon in December just before finals, the steam and water were shut off in Starr Hall. The reason for the shutdown was that Barker had been notified that a great deal of excess steam was seen exiting out of the basement on one side of Starr Hall.

"Anybody in Starr will get an email that says, 'At 9 a.m., we're going to have a water shutdown today,'" Barker said. "We've scheduled two things today to try to consolidate the downtime for the building."

The first task, which fell to Barker



A manhole caked in ice after sub-zero temperatures hit Middlebury last week.

and fellow HVAC and Refrigeration Staff Member Jon Manns, was to replace a condensate pump deep within the bowels of Starr to prevent the excess steam. Barker and Manns tinkered with the steam pump, a small metal sphere designed to open and close with a snap depending on how much steam is needed.

True to its name, HVAC handles everything related to heat and cooling.

"We not only work on all the steam equipment — all the refrigeration systems and every bit of air conditioning is in our office as well," Barker said.

The plumbing shop was working in Starr Hall's basement that day as well, necessitating the water shutdown.

"The plumbing shop has the water off, and they're replacing the pressure-reducing stations," Barker said, "which reduce the pressure of the water coming into the showers of the building."

When students turn on water in dormitories, the heat comes from the Biomass Plant and runs through heat exchangers that use the steam to heat water.

"We use steam to heat up anything, so that's how we heat the hot water for heating systems as well," Barker said. The steam trap Barker replaced in Starr Hall's basement is designed to remove condensate from that steam.

Even though it is currently the coldest month of the year, the steam does not run constantly. Barker explained that if the outside temperature is 51°F or above, the steam pumps do not run. Additionally, the steam is heated to far beyond what the actual temperature is when water comes out of a shower or faucet.

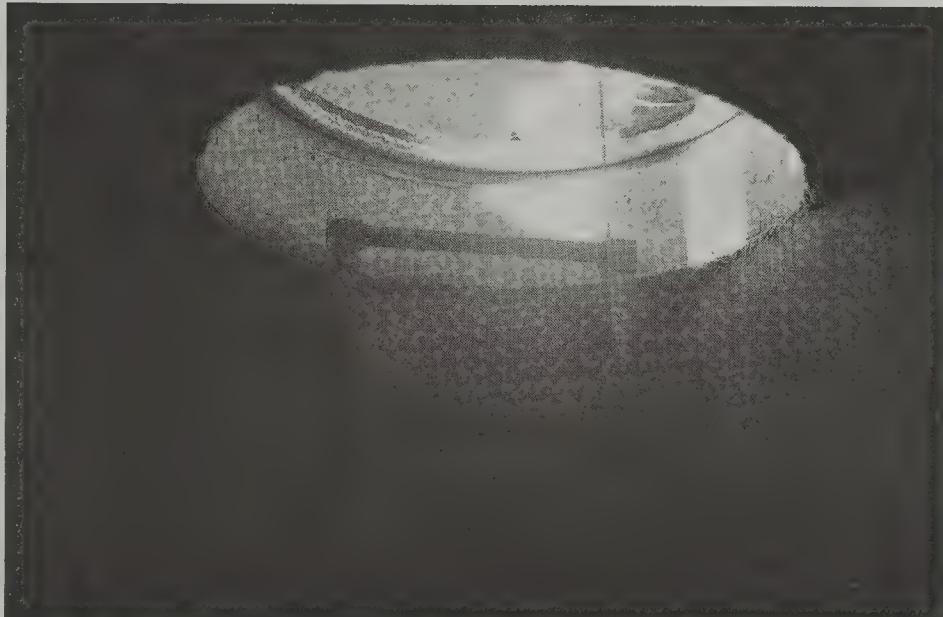
"We're giving your building 138 degrees of heating water," Barker said, a step in the process designed to make sure the heat is not lost in the pipes en route to its destination. The colder it is outside, the hotter the steam is when it leaves the Biomass Plant.

Barker and Manns were on a tight schedule to get the steam back on.

"We better get trucking," Barker said, glancing at his watch. The two grabbed the repaired pump and walked over to Starr Hall.

"Between the plumbing, electric and HVAC shop, we have a lot of things on our plate everyday," said Barker.

Down a rickety flight of stairs in



JOE FLAHERTY

HVAC team-members often brave dangerous conditions under the hundreds of manholes that dot the College to keep the heat running during the coldest days.

Starr, a cramped basement had two plumbers from Facilities working on the pipes to one side. The building, one of the oldest on campus (built in 1860) and not designed for modern equipment, had pipes, gauges and valves crowding what seemed like every inch of space in the dark basement. The small space was sweltering.

"The newer buildings are better," Barker admitted, referencing the tight quarters.

There was a great deal of elbow grease required to get a relatively small steam pump into place. At one point, Barker had to practically heave the pipes to get them situated. Eventually, the valve was in place and all systems were back to normal. The pace of the steam that had been billowing out of Starr's vent had been reduced to its usual rate.

Manns said that many people call the HVAC team to let them know that their heating is not working when, in fact, the lack of heat is intentional. "We get a lot of no heat calls [when] we don't have the heat on in the buildings because it is kind of warm outside," he said. "We can look at their buildings from afar and look at what is going on before we get there."

Barker, on a nearby computer, pulled up graphs through the Energy Management System (EMS) showing data from

all of the buildings on campus, including internal temperatures and even data on individual rooms.

"We can pick any building on campus," Barker said.

The system is sophisticated enough that the tightly monitored controls within the Service Building rarely malfunction. More often than not, heating monitors are damaged because of windows being left open.

"We've had heating systems break open but it is mostly from human error," Barker said.

Ultimately, Barker said keeping the windows closed can have an outsized impact.

"When it's cold outside, students should keep their windows shut, because it will affect everybody else. It's not just them, it's everybody," Barker said. The importance of keeping windows closed has to do with how the older systems measure the temperature of the building as a whole.

"Certain people have certain rooms, so if it's 30 degrees out and the kid in that room has his window wide open, the temperature in there will be fairly cold so it will drive our heat exchanger to go open and give you guys a bunch of heat," Barker said. "Meanwhile, that heat is going right outside."

Flaherty Suits Up and Goes Down the Manhole

By Kyle Finck

Features Editor Joe Flaherty '15 became facilities services newest "dangler," braving sub-zero morning temperatures to drop down into a manhole outside the Biomass plant on Jan. 8.

Flaherty has introduced *Campus* readers to the men and women "Behind the Vest" at Facilities Services who keep the College running. When Flaherty began reporting on the Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) at the College in December, Director of Facilities Services Mike Moser made him an offer he could not resist. Instead of just following the crew around, Moser offered to put Flaherty behind the vest and down a manhole.

To see what happens below the surface of the College, Flaherty had to complete Confined Space Training from Safety & Regulatory Comp. Manager Jeremiah LaCross.

"Right away during the training, you have to be trained on air monitoring. Jeremiah started reading me the possible dangers down there: carbon monoxide, all the sulfuric gases and other stuff that can kill you if you're down there too long. That was one moment when I got a little bit worried,

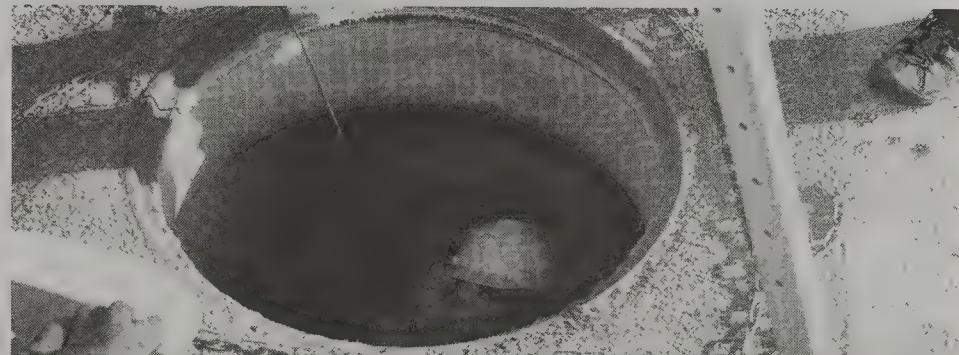
but obviously we weren't going into one that was too dangerous," Flaherty said.

Once he was certified, LaCross, Flaherty and HVAC team member Scott Barker proceeded out to a manhole a few steps outside the Biomass plant. Flaherty is one of more petite danglers the College has certified to go underground, and it took a half hour to fit him into the protective harness usually filled by Will Bickham, a hefty six-foot, 300 pound technician.

Above the manhole, Barker set up a large metal tripod, which hoisted Flaherty into the air and lowered him down the 15-foot hole. Barker was quick to remind Flaherty that this was no joke and that the harness would cut circulation to his legs in a matter of minutes if anything went south.

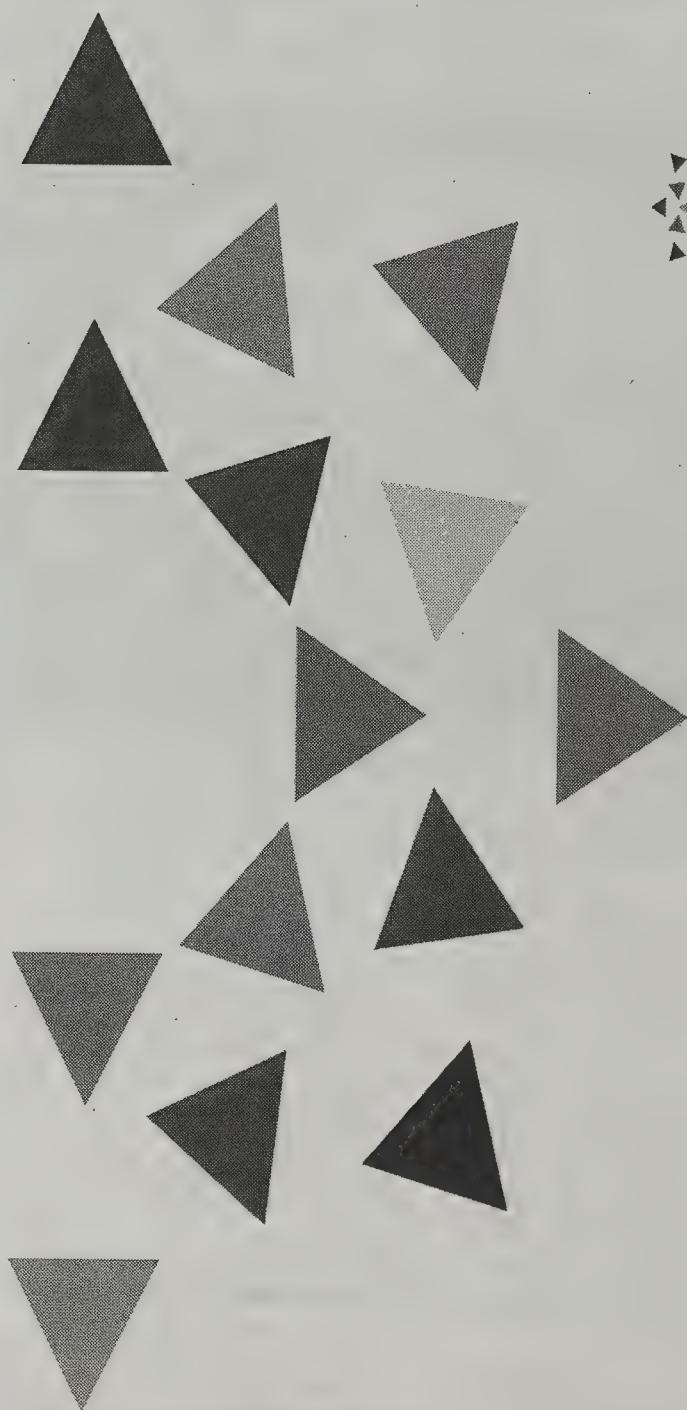
With a smile, a pair of oversized work gloves and a loosely-fitted metallic-yellow hardhat, Flaherty clanked down the manhole reminding us he was okay at every chance he could.

"It's one thing to stand by and report as people fix the Biomass plant or prepare for a snowstorm, but it is another thing entirely to be the person who is going down under and experiencing what Facilities does," Flaherty said. "It was special."



KYLE FINCK

Features Editor Joe Flaherty explores the depths of campus, down a manhole.



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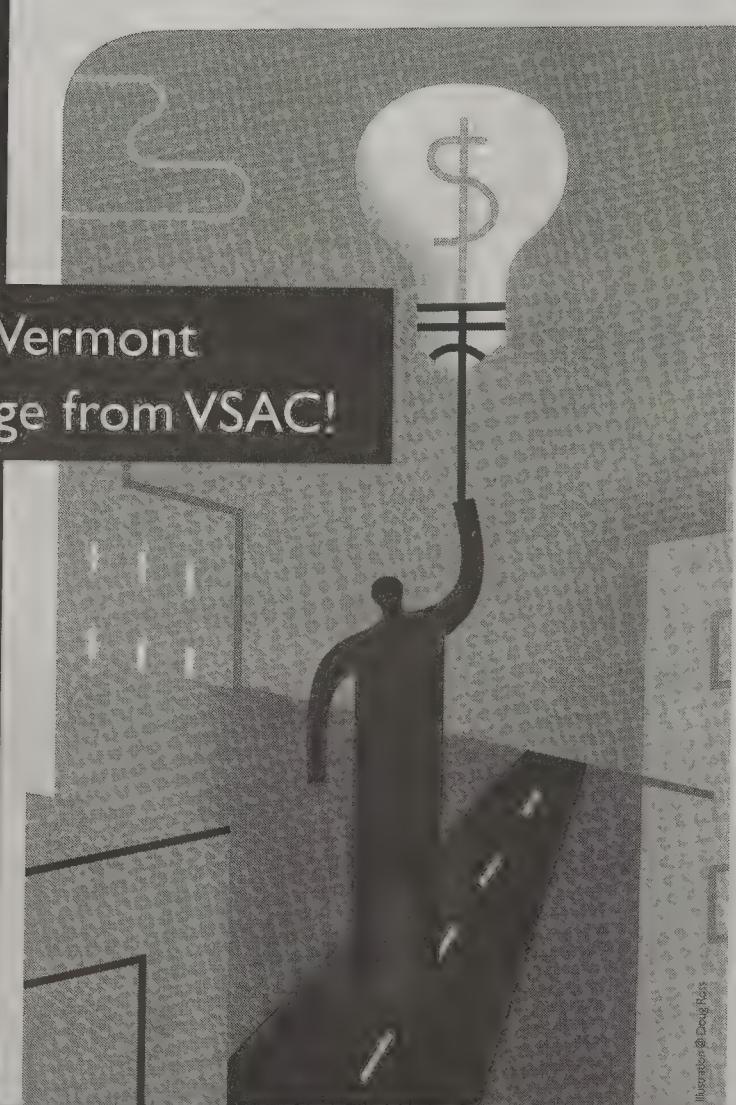
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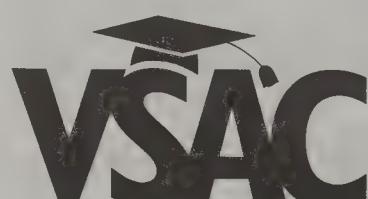


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ARTS & SCIENCES

The Middlebury Campus

Les Mis Promises Changes to Classic

By Leah Lavigne

The Middlebury College Department of Music and Town Hall Theater will present Les Misérables as the sixth annual winter term musical on Thursday, Jan. 23 through Sunday, Jan. 26. This widely popular traditional musical, directed by Town Hall Theater Executive Director Doug Anderson, is a culmination of months of preparation by both the Town Hall Theater and a unique winter term course offering called "American Musical/Performance."

Les Misérables, often called "Les Mis," is based on an 1862 French novel of the same name by classic novelist, poet and dramatist Victor Hugo, who also penned The Hunchback of Notre Dame. For over a third of the over 3,000 page, five volume work, Hugo digresses on moral values and encyclopedic knowledge. Ideas about revolutionary France, religious orders, street urchins of Paris, and redemption permeate the work, which follows over 40 major and minor characters. The novel has been adapted into an astonishing 51 films internationally and inspired the 1985 musical version first premiering in London's West End.

The musical takes major plot points from the novel, following ex-convict Jean Valjean on his quest for redemption. After breaking parole and starting life anew, Valjean becomes a humble and successful mayor of a previously struggling town, but he is relentlessly tracked by police inspector Javert.

Along the way, Valjean encounters the prostitute Fantine, and promises her as she's dying that he will care for her young daughter, Cosette. The musical covers many years, flashing forward to Cosette as a young adult as she dangerously falls for Marius, a young revolutionary. Themes of love, revolt against authority and redemption, coupled with an iconic and recognizable musical score by Claude-Michel Schönberg, have made Les Misérables one of the most iconic and successful musicals of all time.

Quinn Bernegger '13.5 is playing the lead role, Jean Valjean.

"Les Misérables is a show that's sort of blown out of its own proportions sometimes" he said. "As far as I understand, Anderson didn't want to do Les Mis at the beginning because it is this monster thing, and it has a position where it is mythologized and over romanticized, and I think that was distasteful to him. He wanted to change everything around. He usually likes to alter things and try to find a completely new take that surprises people."

Bernegger, who also had a principal role in last year's presentation of Into the Woods, explained that this production will tackle the simplicity of love at first sight, Jean Valjean's seemingly perfect nature, and the predictable repetition of musical themes for certain characters.

"You could just play it the way the



MAX KRAUS

Director Doug Anderson speaks to the company of Les Mis during a rehearsal as a part of a J-term course here at the College.

show sets you up to, which, to me at least, is not as interesting as when you can complicate things," he said. "There are some parts of the show that are so simplified that it's frustrating and cheesy. Hopefully we can successfully pull these changes off and bring some life to the show. My favorite part of the produc-

tion can happen in any region during a given period of time. Each year, Anderson and Christensen discuss possible choices, and after consideration of intense student interest, they decided to choose Les Mis. Coincidentally, a local Burlington theater had already secured the regional rights to the musical for a performance in April, causing possible competition between the two produc-

tion is that process of going through and addressing the problems. That's the best part and also the hardest part."

After Anderson and Musical Director and Applied Music faculty member Carol Christensen conducted auditions early in the fall semester, the cast

members began working on music rehearsals in October. Because the musical is sung-through with no spoken lines, the cast was able to work on everything except for staging before the winter term began.

"We'd been practicing about 80 percent of the musical during the fall semester," Bernegger said. "And it really helps that there's no dancing," he added with a laugh.

The class meets five times a week in the Kevin P. Mahaney '84 Center for the Arts in the afternoon, followed by daily rehearsals in the evenings at the Town Hall Theater. They will be joined by a variety of other students participating in the band, ensemble and crew.

A serious collaboration between the College and the Town Hall Theater started in 2007, when the Theater was trying to meet a \$5 million fundraising goal to bring the structure up to code. The College formed a partnership with the theater providing \$1 million over the next 20 years and creating a new venue for faculty and student performances. The J-term musical began in 2009, with such productions as Gypsy, Hairspray and Into the Woods following in subsequent years.

If it feels like there has not been any advertising for the performance, it is because there was none. The rights to Les Misérables are distributed regionally, meaning that only one performance of

show, asking that interested patrons be present at the Theater to be on the list. There is also an open dress rehearsal on Wednesday, Jan. 22. Doors open at 7 p.m. and tickets are offered at \$5, cash only, on a first come, first served basis. Additionally, free tickets will be available from each Commons Office as the performance draws near, so keep an eye out for emails.

Bernegger is excited for the community to see the production.

"I think the prologue is going to be a really cool image" he said. "I won't give it away, but that should be really great. We've also changed the staging of the finale in a non-traditional way. All I'll say is it's reflective of an attempt to try to shift the focus away from just the leads. It's going to be really exciting."

Les Misérables is presented at 8 p.m. each evening Thursday, Jan. 23 – Saturday, Jan. 25, and as a matinee at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 26 at the Town Hall Theater.



MAX KRAUS

Thomas Scott '15 and Alyssa Dillon '15.5 rehearse a scene in Les Misérables.

DON'T MISS THIS

MLK Oratorio

The 16th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration continues with performances by dancers in the Move2Change J-term class, a cappella groups and student orators celebrating King's legacy.

1/20 7 P.M., MEAD CHAPEL

This is Not a Film

Acclaimed Iranian director Jafar Panahi defies the Iranian government while under house arrest for crimes against national security by documenting a day in his life with only his DV camera and iPhone. Presented as a part of the Hirschfeld International Film Series.

1/17 3 AND 8 P.M., DANA AUDITORIUM

Q & A Speaker

MCAB presents a lecture by activist and former American football player Wade Davis. He will discuss being a closeted gay man in the NFL and the You Can Play Project, an organization he founded to end discrimination and homophobia in sports.

1/21, 7 P.M., MEAD CHAPEL

Sweet Remains Plays Campus

By Ben Anderson

On Thursday, Jan. 16 in Mead Chapel, The Sweet Remains — a folk-rock group led by Middlebury College alumni Rich Price '99.5 and Greg Naughton '90 — will perform in Mead Chapel. The concert is sponsored in part by both Brainerd and Wonnacott commons, as well as the MCAB Small Concerts Initiative.

"We've been slowly working on bringing the band to campus since September," said Winson Law '16 of the Brainerd Commons Council in an email. "We're also excited that this event is sponsored by three different campus organizations, and hope that the concert will help different people come together."

The Middlebury Campus had a chance to chat with Naughton and to learn a little bit more about the band's history and their plans for the upcoming Mead Chapel show.

Middlebury Campus: When did you guys start playing music and how did the band first come together?

Greg Naughton: Well — Rich and I are both Midd grads and although we weren't there at same time, we became aware of each other in New York City for this reason, since we were both solo singer-songwriters at the time. I would go to his shows and he would come to mine. We became friendly then ultimately started writing, playing and touring together about ten years ago. But being fans of some of the old super groups, like CSN, we had this idea that we really wanted to hear a third harmony on the stuff we were writing. About 5 years ago, he called me from a co-bill tour he was doing with this fella, Brian Chartrand, he'd just met and said 'I think I found

the guy.'

So when their tour reached the east coast I met up with them in a hotel room in Rhode Island somewhere and we had a little jam session. I think we knew that day we had a new band...

MC: What are your biggest musical influences, both for you personally and for the band as a whole?

GN: We all bring different influences to the group, which I think gives it some dynamism it wouldn't otherwise have if we all were coming from exactly the same place. I feed heavily on Motown and soul. Brian's a fan of alternative bands and R&B. Rich loves some Paul Simon, James Taylor and John Mayer. But we kind of meet up on a mutual affection for the singer-songwriter supergroups of the 70s like CSN, The Eagles and such. And that's easiest comparison to draw with our music, 3 part harmonies and singer-songwriter folk-rock.

MC: You say you and Rich were Midd students. What did you guys study here at Middlebury and did you play any music while you were students at the College?

GN: Yeah, I was very active musically at Midd in bands and the Dissipated Eight, which was great education for the harmony singing and arranging we do with the Sweet Remains. But I did a joint major in English and Theater. Rich and I were both really involved in Midd Theater (he did a joint History/Theater major). It's a great theater department you've got there.

MC: What sort of music and touring ex-

perience do you and the other band members have outside of The Sweet Remains?

GN: As I said, Rich and I used to tour together promoting our solo stuff. He then got a deal with Geffen Records (for which we wrote a couple songs together) and then they put him out on the road really heavily for a couple years. Though we do solo and other projects on the side, these days Rich and I pretty much only tour with the Sweet Remains. Brian however is gigging pretty much every night of the year — if we're not out, it's his solo deal or other side projects.

MC: Tell me a bit about your writing process, do you pull from personal experience? Play off of music that influences you?

GN: I think all three of us have pretty different processes and different themes that we favor, though there's definitely a common thread. For the most part the Sweet Remains is about having a good time hanging out with friends on the back porch, if you will. So there's a good number of those types of songs. Most of the darker stuff gets saved for our solo projects. Most frequently one of us will bring something to the table once it's mostly been written, then we'll polish it up together and arrange harmonies and such, a process we call "RGB-ifying" it (Rich/Greg/Brian). But we also write some of the stuff together.

MC: What has been your toughest experience touring with The Sweet Remains?

GN: Geography. Brian lives in Phoenix, Rich in Vermont, and I'm in New York City, so we're probably one of the most geographically challenged indie bands you'll find. Every tour starts off with some hefty transportation bills that need to get paid. Otherwise the middle of the country is hard, it's much easier to tour the Northeast and the West Coast. But in the middle the drives between cities can make it really difficult.

MC: If you could play with any musician in history, who would it be?

GN: For me it's definitely Stevie Wonder (I got to meet him last year, and that was pretty cool for me...). Rich I'm pretty sure would say Paul Simon or maybe the Beatles. That would be awesome, I'd go to that show! And Brian, Steely Dan.

MC: Anything else you'd like to add about the upcoming show?

GN: We're pretty psyched to be playing in Mead Chapel this time. We've played McCollough Social Space the last few times, which is great, but the chapel is such a unique space to hear music. Its got its own great vibe and acoustics. Also, we'll be joined by a great backing band, including Midd grad Peter Day (of VTs own The Grift) on Bass, and Brad Wentworth on Percussion.

as better or worse. I think that in my arrogance, I had relegated art to a position of inferiority in my mind to validate my own worldview, in which art did not yet have a place.

Reality proves again and again to be infinitely more complicated than any conception of it that a human or society can dream up. This complexity can either be a negative force of entropy or a positive source of richness and enrichment depending on an individual's mindset. When the self is used as a tool of self-validation to ward off complexity out of fear of entropy, it becomes problematic, a cage in which we lock our minds.

My self was locked in this cage when I shrugged off Studio Art I. I wanted it to be "easy" because I was afraid to conceive of it as anything but; to do so meant acknowledging that the world worked in ways beyond what I conceived of as possible as a molecular biologist.

I'm glad I enrolled in the class, and I'm glad it's kicking my ass. I think I've managed to liberate my self, even if only briefly. Today, for the first time in my life, I walked around campus looking at the buildings and landscape with the eye of an artist; I found vanishing points and horizon lines, and have a whole new appreciation for the aesthetics of the steel I-beams of the Proctor ceiling.

COURTESY
Greg Naughton, Brian Chartrand and Rich Price of folk-trio the Sweet Remains.

SCIENCE and SOCIETY

By Will Henriques

When I told a friend that I would be taking Studio Art over J-term at dinner in November, she laughed and warned me that the final projects would be a challenge. I snorted with derision. Studio Art wasn't a science class; so how difficult could it be, really?

Pride comes before the fall. I just got out of my second Monday class, and I'm not laughing; I'm getting steamrolled. "Disaster" would be a generous description of Thursday's perspective exercise. I've realized I can't draw a straight line to save my life. My handwriting and my thoughtlessness when it comes to the relationship between an object and its labeling text were both pronounced "sloppy". My professor eyed my incomplete still life drawing assigned over the weekend with a mixture of disappointment and disdain and made a passing comment about incomplete drawings demonstrating a lack of commitment to both the art and the class. Thinking art effortless, I hadn't given myself enough time to complete the assignment.

Studio Art delivered swift retribu-

tion for my arrogance; I've been humbled, shamed, deflated. My pride has been exposed as a crutch.

How was it a crutch? I wanted to believe that the lens through which I choose to view the world — as a molecular biologist (an oversimplification, but necessary for the sake of brevity) — is as superior because those lenses brings structure and meaning to my existence. Why did I pine for superiority? It probably had something to do with a sense of insecurity about my conception of self that results in a breed of hyper-competitiveness. I was deluded into thinking that if my worldview were superior, I would somehow win the game of life.

My need to structure my experience into a meaningful pattern is neither an anomaly nor a negative need. I've created a self, labeled part of it "molecular biologist," and as the psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi notes in his book *Flow: The Psychology of Optimal Experience*, "Every piece of information [I] process gets evaluated for its bearing on [that] self. Does it threaten [my] goals, does it support them, or is it neutral?" My self-conception is a yardstick I use to measure and judge incoming information. It is a useful scheme insofar as it helps me understand day-to-day experience.

But that yardstick becomes problematic when used competitively, to judge another conception of the world

ONE LIFE LEFT

BY CHAPIN BOYER

Both the Playstation 4 and the Xbox One made their debuts earlier this holiday season, ushering in the next generation of video game consoles. With each company vying for early supremacy and gamers around the world chomping at the bit for information on the two new machines, I did what any responsible game reviewer would do: I went out and bought a Wii U.

Nintendo released the console in November 2012 to resounding "meh". Dismissed as a gimmick by hardcore gamers who felt burned by the original Wii, the Wii U had trouble finding an audience outside of die-hard Nintendo fans. Fast forward a year or so, and Nintendo has had time to fill out the Wii U's library to respectable levels and it only looks to be getting better. I figured it was time to give the console a shot.

While the two main competing consoles are vying for technical supremacy, Nintendo has stuck to what it knows best and made a console with some unique features that will allow for more interesting game design. In this case the touch pad controller is this console's claim to fame. The controller sports all of the buttons that most gamers will expect on a controller, but swaps out smooth triggers for more traditional shoulder buttons.

WII-U

The first game I picked up was *Super Mario 3D World*. Mario's latest outing is a joy to play, and despite some frustrating holdover mechanics (can we get rid of lives, please?) the game is a must have for any Wii U owner. While the majority of the game consists of fairly standard Mario platforming, some sections of the game require the player to manipulate the environment by touching parts of it on the screen, or blowing onto the microphone. These moments flow quite well with the rest of the gameplay, and satisfied my need for a game that actually used my fancy new controller.

After finishing up most of *3D Land*, I decided to take a look at *Rayman: Legends*, the sequel to the excellent *Rayman: Origins*. *Legends* features the co-op platforming that its predecessor did, but with an added bonus. Some levels require one of the players to take the Wii U Controller and play as a frog fairy named Murphy to manipulate the environment. This might sound similar to *3D Land*'s use of the gamepad, and it is, but *Legends* executes the idea so much better. While early levels have the players navigating the environment by cutting ropes and stunning invulnerable enemies, later stages include more complicated segments such as the one where Murphy has to keep the rest of the players hidden from lasers. Playing these levels with friends provides a manic, but somehow doable co-op experience that you will not find anywhere else.

While I did not get to play more than a couple of games using the touch pad, I quite enjoyed the games I did play. That being said, there are some noticeable downsides to Nintendo's focus on innovation over technology.

Because the Wii U is more comparable in power to an Xbox 360 or a Playstation 3 than it is to the next gen consoles, it will most likely not be able to run many of the new titles hitting store shelves in the upcoming years. That means that if you are going to want to play any of those games, you are going to have to shell out for one of the other consoles, or a powerful PC. The Wii U is far and away the most interesting home console out there right now, and Nintendo is making strides to make it a console that can appeal to casual and hardcore gamers alike. On the other hand, it will most likely not be able to run the slew of new games that come out for the Next Gen consoles.

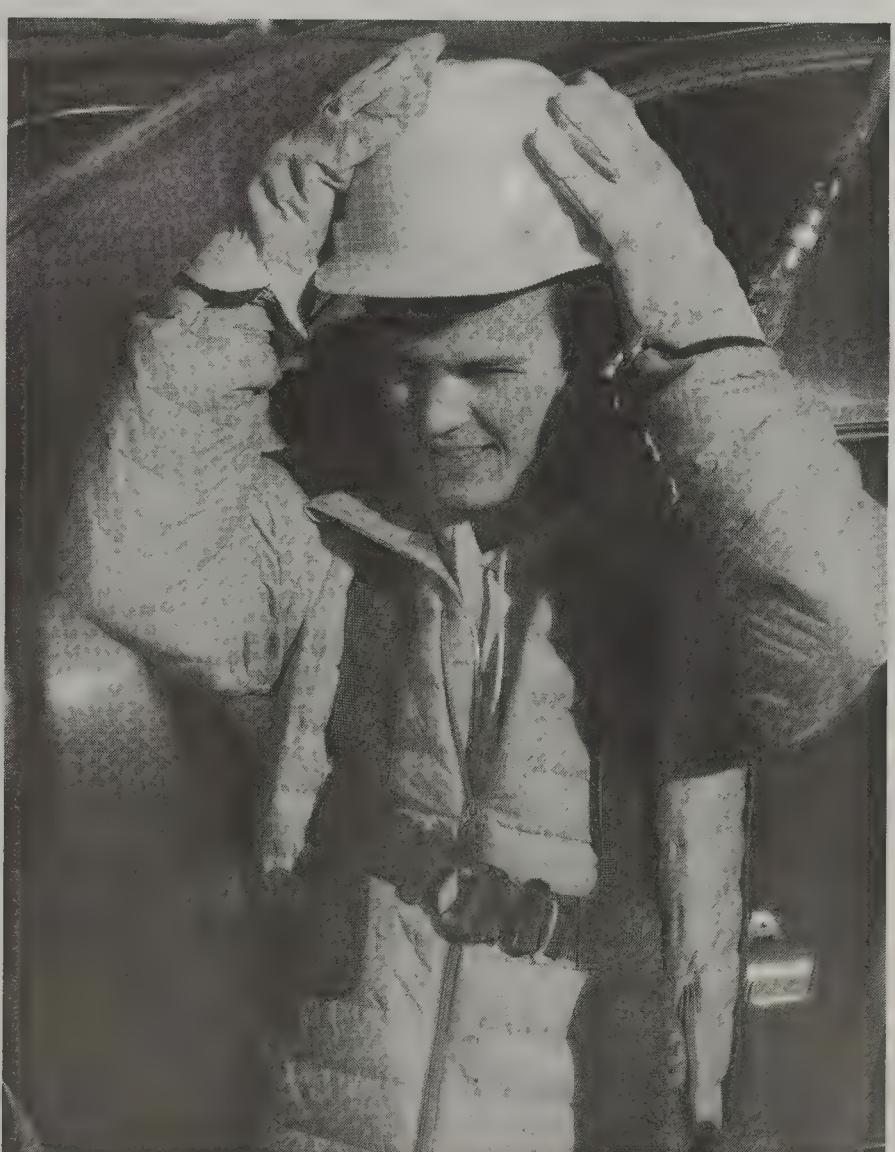
Nintendo has produced a respectable library for the Wii U, but it is up in the air as to whether they will be able to support it in the future. As for whether you should buy one of these things, I can only give you a resounding "maybe". If the games keep on coming out for it, it will probably give you some of the most enjoyable and interesting titles you will see this generation. If not, your Wii U might end up gathering dust.

Even with that risk, I love this console so far, and if you are willing to bet on some more interesting games coming out, the Wii U will not disappoint. I hope.

Congratulations to our fearless features editor Joe Flaherty, for bashing heads by day in the SGA, and taking names by night at the Campus!



Don't let the suit fool you,
because he's been
confined space certified.



PUT ON ICE: UVM CARNIVAL POSTPONED DUE TO POOR WEATHER CONDITIONS



COURTESY OF DUSTIN SALTDOFF

Yina Moe-Lange '15 (above) and Chris McKenna '17 (left) finished first among Middlebury alpine skiers for the women's and men's teams, respectively, during the first day of the UVM Carnival. The Panthers sat in fourth place overall before Sunday's races were postponed due to weather concerns.

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Strom Jumps to New Height at Dartmouth

By Fiona Maloney-McChrystal

The track team began its indoor season on Sunday, Jan. 12, at the Dartmouth Relays in Hanover, NH. While the distance squad, which is comprised mainly of cross country runners, stayed at school to get in more rest and training in preparation of its second of three consecutive seasons, the rest of the team traveled south to compete against a group of mostly Division I schools at Leverone Field House.

On the men's side, one of the highlights of the day came with Jason McCallum's '14 fourth-place finish in the pole vault, where he finished at a height of 14 feet and 1.25 inches. Another solid performance came in the 400m, where

Alex Nichols '17 won his heat and took sixth overall with a time of 50.97.

"The meet was basically a way to get a reference point for the rest of our year," Nichols said. "It was the first time we really got to see how we stacked up against some very good teams as well as what we need to keep working on. Now we're actually in season and can keep striving for improvement."

The team also put forward a nice showing in the 4x400 meter relay, taking seventh place in a field of 20 teams with a time of 3:31.10. As a whole, the men's squad finished in ninth-place with a total of six points. The host Dartmouth men took home the title, edging Southern Connecticut State by seven points for a total of 120. The only other NESCAC

school at the meet, Williams, finished in fifth with 32 points.

On the women's side, the day brought a number of exciting Panther performances. Laura Strom '14.5 won an impressive victory in the high jump with a mark of 5 feet 8.5 inches, making her the top-ranked women's high jumper in the nation. Alex Morris '16 also put forth an excellent performance in the 400m, where she took second overall with a time of 58.99, running herself into a third-place NCAA ranking for the event. The women's team as a whole totaled 19 points, finishing in sixth place and edging NESCAC competitor Tufts by one point. The Williams women were also in attendance, taking fourth place. Once again, Dartmouth took home top

honors, decisively edging Harvard with 140.5 points.

"It's the first meet of many weekends between the winter and spring. While performances will improve and peak by the end of the year, this was a good start. A few people really surprised us with just how good of a start they would have," head coach Martin Beatty said. "Not being able to truly train like we would if we had an indoor track does hurt, but we are trying our best to overcome and work hard. At the same time it's fun to run against some D-I competition and as usual we held our own and of course, Strom beat all of them."

As they begin to shake off the rust, the Panthers return to action this Friday, Jan. 17, at the University of Vermont.

Swim Teams Sneak Past Springfield

By Kevin Yochim

The Middlebury men and women's swim teams enjoyed a great deal of success in front of their home crowd on Saturday, Jan. 11. Both teams defeated Springfield College, with the men winning by a score of 181.5-116.5 and the women edging past the Pride 150-148. The men improved to 2-4 on the year, while the women got to .500 at 3-3.

The men got the meet off to a fast start in the 400-yard medley relay. Ian MacKay '14 led off with a time of 53.95 seconds in the backstroke leg. He was followed by Stephan Koenigsberger '16, who is enjoying a very strong sophomore season. By the time Teddy Kuo '15 entered the pool for the butterfly leg the Panthers had built up a significant lead, and he and Bryan Cheuk '16 were able to hold on for the victory, stopping the clock at 3:37.48.

The men won 11 of the 16 events on the day, and had the top two finishers in five of those events. MacKay won the 50-yard backstroke and 50-yard butterfly with times of 24.61 and 23.40 seconds, respectively. Co-captain Nick Keenan '14 took home both the 100-yard backstroke (56.58 seconds) and the 100-yard individual medley (55.59 seconds).

Also winning events for the Middlebury men against Springfield were Koenigsberger, Cheuk, first-year

Michael McGean '17, Paul Lagasse '16, and Andrew Rosenthal '16.

The men finished strong with an easy victory in the 400-yard freestyle relay. MacKay led off and put the Panthers way ahead with a time of 47.91 seconds, easily the fastest of the event even with the flat start. Cheuk, Lagasse, and co-captain Mike Oster '14 rounded out the Panthers squad that finished with a time of 3:15.77, more than four seconds ahead of Springfield.

"We did a great job of stepping up and racing after a really tough week of training," Keenan said. "We were able to win a lot of close races and a win like this provides a lot of good momentum heading into the end of the season."

On the diving side, Skylar Dallmeyer-Drennen '14.5 finished fourth in both the 1- and 3-meter events with scores of 213.45 and 224.33, respectively. The Springfield team was able to make up considerable ground in the diving events, entering the meet with a much larger diving roster than Middlebury's.

The women's matchup was much closer and came down to the very end. The score was tied heading into the last two events, the 100-yard individual medley and the 400-yard freestyle relay. In the medley, Jamie Hillas '15 captured the top spot with a time of 59.51 seconds and was followed by Jennifer Koide '17 (1:02.94), giving the Panthers a lead of

eleven points.

In the relay, the girls needed only a second place finish to seal the victory. They were careful to avoid disqualification and touched the wall in 3:42.27, good enough for second place and the narrow win over the Pride.

Hillas also had an impressive meet for the Panthers, winning the 100-yard butterfly and 100-yard butterfly in addition to the medley. Tri-captain Andie Tibbets '14 also notched two event wins, besting the field in both the 50- and 100-yard backstroke.

The women started out on top with a win in the 400-yard medley relay. Hillas, Tibbets, Lily Sawyer '16, and Morgan Burke '17 finished first with a time of 4:02.00, while the Panthers 'B' relay also turned in a strong performance, finishing in 4:07.37, good for second place.

Colleen Harper '14 finished second in both diving events with a score of 275.48 in the 3-meter and 265.20 in the 1-meter, though all of the other points in the event went to Springfield.

"After a couple of hard losses, this meet served as a turning point in the season," Tibbets said. "It prepares us well for upcoming meets and a successful end of season."

The Panthers will remain at home on Saturday, Jan. 18 and host Union College, who both teams beat last winter.

THE MIDDLEBURY GREAT GR8 EIGHT

RANKING CHANGE TEAM Mac's Musings

1 WOMEN'S HOCKEY
Monster doubleheader against Amherst this week

2 SQUASH
Both teams smoked Amherst, and the women, especially, are looking good

3 SKIING
Despite weather, first meet was encouraging

4 INDOOR TRACK
Solid start to the indoor season, led by Strom

5 MEN'S HOCKEY
Big statement game coming against Plattsburgh

6 MEN'S HOOPS
Hopefully things are coming together for Midd

7 SWIMMING AND DIVING
Wins for men and women last week are a positive sign

8 WOMEN'S HOOPS
Last weekend was "Tuft," but they will rebound this weekend

EDITORS' PICKS



DAMON HATHeway (134-117, .534)



ALEX MORRIS (22-22, .500)



OWEN TEACH (86-90, .489)



JOE MACDONALD (21-23, .477)



FRITZ PARKER (25-28, .472)

Men's Hockey: Who will win Friday's showdown between Middlebury and Plattsburgh?

PLATTSBURGH

It's great to have you back, Fritz. But it's getting kind of crowded over here in editors' picks with five editors ...

PLATTSBURGH

They're apparently pretty good.

PLATTSBURGH

In editors' picks, always follow your brain, not your heart.

PLATTSBURGH

If that's true, Owen, what does your record say about your brain...

PLATTSBURGH

Gotta get my percentage up after such a long break, and this is the closest I'll get to a sure thing.

Who will be number one in the NESCAC women's hockey standings after this weekend?

MIDDLEBURY

So before I go (don't cry for me, ADP), I'd like to suggest a new rule for this space — which is that the lowest editor on the totem pole ...

MIDDLEBURY

What is a Lord Jeff anyways?

MIDDLEBURY

I'm thinking a tie and a win for the Panthers.

AMHERST

Amherst gets the nod for being on home ice.

MIDDLEBURY

The women will take care of business against the clearly inferior Lord Jeffs.

Will the Boston Bruins sit alone atop the NHL Atlantic division after next Monday's games?

NO

Gets relegated to the news section (they need all the help they can get) until he or she is unceremoniously passed by a fellow editor.

YES

I'm pretty much an expert when it comes to hockey.

NO

I despise the Bruins with a burning passion and will never wish them well under any circumstances.

NO

Unfortunately, the Lightning get what should be a few cupcake games with the Islanders and Carolina.

NO

Tampa Bay is going to catch them, ain't no doubt about it.

Men's basketball -10.5 at Connecticut College

MIDDLEBURY

So while it's nice to have you back, Fritz, we're going to send you packing again. But don't worry, JoeMac will be taking your spot soon enough.

MIDDLEBURY

Let's hope Bates was a wake-up call.

MIDDLEBURY

After watching the Bates game last weekend, however, I'm not feeling 100 percent on this one.

MIDDLEBURY

Big contributors getting in rhythm, first NESCAC win out of the way, smooth sailing ahead

CONN. COLLEGE

The Panthers will win, but they haven't been burying bad opponents like they usually do.

Panthers Drop Three Straight to Tip Off New Year

By Joe MacDonald

The men's basketball team (8-5 overall, 1-1 in NESCAC) went into winter break on a high note with a nail-biting 89-84 victory at Skidmore, but the long layoff did not favor the Panthers, who opened 2014 with three straight losses, including the NESCAC opener on Friday, Jan. 10 against Bates. Middlebury then captured its first NESCAC victory with an impressive defeat of a young and athletic Tufts team 80-66 on Saturday, Jan. 11, and followed-up that performance with a convincing victory over a struggling Lyndon State squad with an 81-69 win on Tuesday, Jan. 14.

Following two sloppy losses against out-of-conference opponents, Middlebury opened NESCAC play at home this past weekend. The Panthers had not lost to Bates since Feb., 2007, but suffered a 64-61 defeat on Friday night. Shots consistently fell for Middlebury in the first half, who took a 36-25 lead at halftime after making six three-pointers and shooting 45 percent from the field.

Prior to the game, Coach Jeff Brown spoke about Dylan Sinnickson '15, who was poised to return from a personal leave of absence.

"We expect for Dylan to contribute, and in terms of how much, it will really depend on the performance," Brown said.

Sinnickson rewarded his coach's decision, exploding off the bench for 17 first-half points on 6-10 shooting, including three of four from beyond the arc.

Despite shooting just 24 percent from the floor in the second half, Middlebury maintained their lead as Bates bailed out the hosts with multiple fouls early in the second half, and 15 personal fouls total after halftime. As a result, the Bobcats (8-4, 1-0) worked tirelessly to cut into the Panthers' lead. With less than five minutes to play, a missed layup on the Panther end resulted in a dunk for impressive Bates center Malcolm Delpeche to draw the Bobcats within one. On the ensuing Panther possession, another missed layup in traffic gave the ball back to the visitors. The crowd cried for a foul and the volume in Pepin Gymnasium reached a crescendo as the Panthers settled in to protect their one point lead. However, Delpeche made his presence felt again with a follow-up

lay-in on the other end to put the Bobcats ahead 54-53.

Trailing by one at the 2:30 mark, captain Joey Kizel '14 knocked down a free throw to tie the ball game at 56. Kizel, an 82 percent free throw shooter on the season, uncharacteristically missed the second, but the Panthers came out of the crowd underneath the basket with possession and Kizel knocked down a go-ahead three-pointer. On the other end, Adam Philpott retaliated with a three of his own. And then, with 10 seconds remaining, Bates' leading scorer and co-captain Graham Safford drilled a back-breaking three. The Bates 64-61 victory was sealed when Kizel missed an off-balance three-point attempt of his own as time expired.

Sinnickson finished as the game's leading scorer with 23 points, and attributed his performance to increased concentration.

"I was very focused heading into this weekend," he said. "We were struggling prior to Bates and Tufts, but I think we have turned the corner," Sinnickson said.

Kizel managed 12 of his own, primarily by getting to the line (7-11), and dragged down seven rebounds.

The Panthers played a much more complete game on Sunday against a freshman-laden Tufts (7-6, 0-1) team. With the Jumbos getting two experienced guards back from injury just in time to meet the Panthers, Sunday's matchup provided a stiffer challenge than Tufts' record would have suggested. However, Middlebury's dead-eye shooting throughout made the difference. The Panthers shot at a 51 percent clip from the field, 47 percent from deep and 81 percent from the charity stripe, where Brown's team has been inconsistent on the year.

The first half featured fast-paced basketball and dominant post-play by Tufts' first-year big man Hunter Sabeti, who was perfect from the field, making all eight of his first-half attempts and adding three boards. Hunter Merryman '15 led the Panthers in scoring at halftime, knocking down two three-pointers and tallying eight points. As a whole, the Jumbos dominated the first half rebounding battle, played tight perimeter defense and made quick substitutions to keep legs fresh in order to secure a three-point lead going into halftime.

With the game close five minutes into the second half, the physicality picked up when, after the whistle, Sabeti slammed the ball through the hoop onto a sprawled Matt Daley '16. The insult drew a shove from James Jensen '14, which resulted in a technical for the senior forward and outrage from the Middlebury fans. A minute later, further physical play resulted in a double foul on Jensen and Tufts' first-year forward Drew Madsen. The rough play meant that both teams were in the double bonus with more than eight minutes remaining, a development that favored Middlebury, as the Jumbos converted only 56 percent of their second half free throws. Both Madsen and Tufts' junior guard Ben Ferris left the game early due to foul trouble.

The game remained tightly contested until the last two minutes, when a Daley three, followed by an old-fashioned three-point play by Matt St. Amour '17 pushed the game out of reach as part of a 20-5 Middlebury run over the final 8:54 of the game.

The victory over Tufts halted the team's first three game losing streak in eight seasons. In Middlebury's first action of 2014, the Panthers dropped a road game at Salve Regina (9-4) after an eight hour bus ride due to inclement weather and only a 30-minute warm-up. Middlebury

followed that by shooting an abysmal 28 percent at home against Plattsburgh St. (8-3) in a 63-47 loss, the team's lowest scoring performance of the season.

Coach Brown believed that the team's offense executed well against Plattsburgh, despite displeasing results.

"I think it really just sort of got contagious in that we missed some shots we normally make and we got tighter as the game went on, but in reviewing the game I think our offensive execution was pretty good," Brown said.

After the two out-of-conference losses, Brown admitted that his team's resolve had been challenged.

"I think our confidence has been shaken a little bit, not coming out of the gate strong in the second semester," he said.

On the heels of the conference victory over Tufts, the Panthers travelled to Lyndonville, Vt. to take on in-state opponent Lyndon State. The Panthers lead throughout, eventually closing out a 81-69 win. Merryman, Sinnickson, St. Amour and Jensen all scored in double digits, while Jack Roberts '14 lead the squad with eight rebounds.

Now sitting at 1-1 in conference, the Panthers will resume NESCAC play this coming weekend with road games at Wesleyan and Connecticut College.



James Jensen '14 attempts a reverse layup to avoid the long-armed reach of Bates' Malcolm Delpeche in Middlebury's 64-61 loss to the Bobcats, Jan. 9.

ANNEA VON VIRAGH

Squash Teams Play Host to Tough Opponents

By Stephen Etna

In their first competitive play in the new squash facility, on Saturday, Dec. 7 and Sunday, Dec. 8, the Middlebury men's and women's squash teams played host to a number of top-ranked teams.

In a weekend matchup featuring Colby, Bowdoin and St. Lawrence, the Lady Panthers rose to the occasion, going undefeated while the men's team split its results for the weekend. The women's team started off the new year with a 9-0 trouncing of Mount Holyoke on Saturday, Jan. 11. The Panthers then continued with a strong showing against Amherst, with both the men and women securing 8-1 wins over the Lord Jeffs.

Starting off by facing off against Colby, Middlebury showed its depth, coasting to an easy 9-0 victory. Starting the match off with easy straight set wins from Abby Jenkins '14, Annie Wymard '15 and Tiffany Hau '16 at the top three slots, the team never let up, with every member of the Middlebury team winning in convincing fashion.

Of particular note was the play of Zoe Carey '16, who not only won convincingly, but was in complete control of her opponent, Liz Brehman of Colby. Carey ceded only nine points to her opponent throughout the entirety of the match, including a second game in which she blanked Brehman en route to victory.

Later that afternoon, Middlebury played host to Bowdoin, and won in similarly convincing fashion. The Panthers opened up play with six consecutive wins through the top slots, before seeing Audrey Ellen '17 and Isabel van der Linden '17 lose

very tightly contested games at the seven and eight slots. Middlebury would then rebound with a win in the ninth slot by Grace Backe '15.5.

The next day, however, provided the true test to the women's squash team. Facing the historically strong squash program of St. Lawrence, the match truly went down to the wire.

However, perhaps in a testament to the overall strength of the women's team, rare losses dealt to Jenkins and Hau were overcome by decisive victories in the lower slots. The Panthers fourth, fifth, and sixth slots put on quite the show, with a dominant victory from Saskia Pownall-Gray '16, including a third game in which she didn't allow one point. With the game tied up following a victory from Amanda Chen '14, Ellen came up clutch in a massive fashion, winning her game and getting the fifth and decisive victory in Middlebury's 5-4 victory over the Saints.

Following the strong performance against three quality opponents before the winter break, the women's squash team has kept up its excellent play as of late, recently recording a 9-0 trouncing of Mount Holyoke.

The men also played host to Colby, Bowdoin and St. Lawrence before winter break, experiencing some degree of success. Opening the weekend against Colby, the men, like the women blanked the Mules, winning convincingly 9-0.

A testament to the control Middlebury had over Colby, only two players from Middlebury had to play more than the minimum three matches in order to secure the win.

Middlebury then completed a similarly pleasantly uneventful game against Bowdoin, with the Panthers thoroughly in control against the Polar Bears, roaring to an 8-1 victory. Parker Hurst '14 and Andrew Jung '16 continued their solid play of late, beating their opposition from Bowdoin in straight sets. First-year Andrew Cadinehead '17 continued to assert himself as a strong player, with another competitive win at the difficult third slot.

"The team proved to be reaching our prime by beating Bowdoin," Rob Galluccio '15 said. "[The match] was a good indicator as we gear up to play similar competitors like Williams and Drexel, matches which will be more important in establishing our ranking going forward."

The match against St. Lawrence, however, was not in Middlebury's favor. The fourth-ranked team in the country,

and a perennial contender at the NCAA championships, St. Lawrence provided the Middlebury men with a stiff challenge. St. Lawrence lived up to their reputation, handing the Panthers a 9-0 defeat.

While a discouraging result superficially, Middlebury competed well against perhaps the best competition they will face before the championship season begins.

Both the men's and women's teams displayed their dominance against NESCAC-foe Amherst on Tuesday, Jan. 14, each downing the Lord Jeffs 8-1.

"We were much better against Amherst than we were in the same match last season," Galluccio said. "We played at our best and we're coming into the most important part of the season really confident about what we can accomplish."

Both teams continue with NESCAC play at Williams on Saturday, Jan. 18.

PANTHER SCOREBOARD

WOMEN'S SWIM /DIVE vs. Springfield

150-148 W

70-44 L

5-0 W

80-66 W

4-1 W

The women and men both defeat Springfield, but the tight victory had to be exciting for Middlebury

The number 7 Jumbos brought the hammer down on the Panthers on Saturday

Domination for the Panthers over Wesleyan on Saturday afternoon

It's been a rocky road to Salem so far, but the Panthers will hopefully be at full strength from here on out

After tying with the Cardinals on Thursday, the Panthers manhandled Wesleyan on Friday

Panthers Finding Form After Beaney Notches 500th Win

By John Wyman

The Middlebury men's hockey team glided past the midway point of their season at 6-4-2 (4-3-1 in NESCAC). December closed with two disappointing NESCAC losses to Amherst and Hamilton, but 2014 began with two victories over St. Michaels and Neumann, as Middlebury seized the Holiday Classic tournament on home ice. The Panthers stomached a frustrating loss to Trinity on Friday, Jan. 10, but rallied behind Nick BonDurant '14 to shut out Wesleyan the next night as Bill Beaney eclipsed his 500th career win in front of alumni from the championship-winning '04 team who returned to cheer on the current squad.

In 27 seasons as Middlebury's head coach, Beaney has a 501-165-47 record. To put this achievement in perspective, only ten NHL coaches (who coach 82 game seasons) have more career wins.

"I really owe it to the tremendous players, assistant coaches, and trainers I have worked with," Beaney said. "I think back to all of the friends I have made along the way."

Almost every former player from the '04 team returned this weekend to skate with and playfully roughhouse some of the current Panthers. Beaney described the scene like a proud parent.

"They are all so successful now, and it was great to see them interact with all the current guys and pick up right where they left off," he said.

Assistant coach Jamie McKenna '09, who contributed to wins on both sides of the bench, was impressed by the turnout of the championship team.

"I think it's a clear testament to the kind of coaching job Beaney does," McKenna said. "He cares about helping players grow as players and also as people."

"I think it's a clear testament to the kind of coaching job Beaney does. He cares about helping players grow as players and also as people."

JAMIE MCKENNA '09

ASSISTANT COACH

McKenna operates as the team power-play guru and has coached the man-advantage to a NESCAC-best 20 goals this season on 70 penalty opportunities. Shooter Louis Belisle '14 has six strikes, coming mostly from one-time slappers or strong wrist shots from the perimeter. Against Neumann in the Holiday classic final, Belisle dragged and cranked in the game winner after passing from first-year players Andrew Neary '17 and Mike Najjar

'17 opened up the shooting lane. Derek Pimentel '15, Michael Longo '14 and Cameron Romoff '17 are also familiar forces on the man advantage, with two goals each.

"There is still more we can be doing," McKenna said. "Some of the goals we've scored on the power play haven't been great goals, but guys are working at it. I think the players realize that when we convert on the power play, we win games."

The 20 goals account for half of the team's total scoring on the season.

In the regular run of play, Middlebury can speed away with its legs and crisp passing, but just as quickly lapse and give away sudden heart-snatching goals. The up-and-down results this season reflect these consistency troubles, but the players and coaches continue to express confidence in the talent and tools of the group.

Longo asserted the importance of preparation, citing the two most recent games as evidence.

"They show that on any given night, we can skate with any team in the country," Longo said. "But if we don't come prepared, we can also lose to anybody. It's really in our hands. Against Wesleyan, we committed to playing better team defense and didn't give up the type of odd man rushes that killed us against Trinity."

Beaney drew from his vast experience

coaching the team sport to articulate his own concerns.

"This team can skate as well as any that I have coached," Beaney said. "What we need to develop are some of the intangibles. There is a certain depth of awareness, a love for the journey that separates the truly great teams. If we can find that, I believe we can do anything."

The recent stretch of four games has given reasons to be optimistic on both ends of the rink. Through four games in 2014 Middlebury has averaged 4.25 goals per game, as opposed to just 1.5 goals per game in the four preceding contests. The return of second-year scorer Jake Charles '16, who has five goals, and key defenseman Terrance Goguen '16 can only help the fortify this trend.

With his 25-save shutout victory over Wesleyan, BonDurant stuck a foot in the revolving door at the goaltender position. Liam Moorfield-Yee '16, Drew Michals '17, and Michael Peters '15 have all made starts this year, but the team would like to see BonDurant keep the rubber-stopping duty with more stellar play.

This weekend Middlebury will measure up against third-ranked Plattsburgh State, who defeated the Panthers earlier this year, at Kenyon arena on Friday, Jan. 17, before traveling to face fifth-ranked Norwich the next night.

BY THE NUMB3RS

8 Number of years since the men's basketball team lost three straight games - until this month

17 Inches by which Laura Strom '14 improved on her personal record in the high jump. She recorded a 5' 8.5" in the event.

4 Margin by which Middlebury men's hockey outshot Trinity, despite losing 6-3 on Saturday

2 Rushing touchdowns scored by Patriots RB LeGarrette Blount in the Divisional round win against the Luck-less Colts

4 Number of shots on goal recorded by Salve Regina in the first period of its 8-2 loss to women's hockey

WHY?

I have asked myself the same question over and over again in my career as a sports fan: Why do I keep doing this to myself?

My four favorite professional sports teams - the Buffalo Bills (NFL), Buffalo Sabres (NHL), Washington Nationals (MLB) and Washington Wizards (NBA) - time and time again prove that they have no regard for my emotional well-being by constantly inventing new ways to lose games and, as a result, put me in a bad mood. Not that these franchises technically owe me anything, but I am confident that my lot is far worse than the average sports fan.

Between these four teams I can hang my hat on three things - the Bills winning the 1964 and 1965 AFL championships (the football league before the NFL) and the Wizards 1978 NBA championship. The most recent championship happened 13 years before I was born. That's it.

I am also confident that my teams have suffered some of the most brutal defeats in professional sports history. Some of the losses, in fact, are so famous that they have names.

To start, you have the infamous "no goal" game, in which Brett Hull scored the game-winning goal against the Sabres with his skate in the crease deep into triple overtime of Game 6 in the 1999 NHL playoffs to clinch the series for Dallas.

There is also the "wide right" game, where Bills kicker Scott Norwood barely missed a 47-yard field goal try to end the contest and give the New York Giants a 20-19 win. Oh and by the way, the Bills went to the next three Super Bowls and lost all of them.

The Nationals, bless their hearts, boasted the best record in the MLB in 2012 and took the St. Louis Cardinals to five games in that year's NLDS. They opened a 6-0 lead in the game before entering the top of the ninth inning leading 7-5. Closer Drew Storen then got the Cardinals down to their final strike in two separate at bats, but the Cards squeezed out four runs and the Nationals crumbled. I left Two Brothers Tavern and aimlessly walked around Middlebury for an hour.

I can't forget to mention the Music City Miracle game in here. In the Bills last playoff game way back in 1999, they went up 16-15 with 16 seconds remaining against Tennessee in the Wild Card game. All they had to do was stop them on maybe one or two defensive plays. Instead, the Bills elected to go for a deep kickoff and all hell broke loose. Titans' tight end Frank Wycheck threw a lateral all the way across the field to wide receiver Kevin Dyson, who then ran the ball 75 yards back for a touchdown. See you later.

Of course these teams also have some high points in the forms of division championships and individual accolades, but we all know championships are what matter.

So, why do I keep doing this to myself? Because I know that when the Sabres win the Stanley Cup and the Bills win the Super Bowl: all the waiting will have been worth it. I don't cry very often, but I am sure that the floodgates will open for a championship in Buffalo or DC. All the years of going to games and commiserating with my Dad will be vindicated.

More than just on a personal note, however, I doubt there is a city in the United States that truly deserves a championship more than Buffalo, New York. Certainly D.C. could use one too, but the small city on Lake Erie really needs one. A town that has been through a lot, both on and off the field, would, in my opinion, appreciate it more than just about anywhere else.

So the question becomes: how long do I have to wait?

-Owen Teach '13.5 is a sports editor from Bethesda, Md.

Kirk, First-Year Knox Lead Panthers to Dominant NESCAC Win Over Bates

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opponent," Knox said. "We just went into the game with the mindset that we would have to bring a very high intensity and work extremely hard defensively to compete with their tall forwards. Offensively, we prepared to execute Middlebury basketball like always."

Kirk's play was again a bright spot for Middlebury, as she followed up Friday night's performance with 12 points and 10 boards for another double-double. Knox led all scorers with 13 points, going 4-8 from the floor and hitting all four of her free-throws.

"A few things that worked for me in this weekend's games were trying to get into good position down low and box out on the offensive and defensive boards," Knox said.

Back in action on Tuesday, Jan. 14, the Panthers played host to Colby-Sawyer in a non-league game. The teams remained tightly locked through the first half, with the Chargers hitting three crucial three-pointers to keep the game competitive early. At the half, Colby-Sawyer clung to a slim one-point lead.

Coming out of the break, Middlebury was able to tighten up their defense while shooting nearly 50 percent from the floor. The Panthers took advantage of a significant rebounding advantage -

including 13 boards from Kirk - to pull away in the second half and win 65-58.

Marcus and Rachel Crews '15 led the Panthers with 15 and 14 points, respectively. Coolidge - scoring 10 off the bench - was Middlebury's other double-figure scorer in the game.

Middlebury moves to 6-7 on the season with the weekend's split performance followed by the victory over Colby-Sawyer and starts NESCAC play at a 1-1



Rachel Crews '15 backs down on Tufts' 6'2" center Haley Kanner. Kanner entered the game as the NESCAC's leading shot blocker, averaging more than three per game.



ROAD BLOCK

Three-straight losses to start 2014 have put the men's basketball team's postseason chances in jeopardy. Following a loss to Bates (above) in the final seconds, the Panthers bounced back with a resilient 80-66 victory against Tufts, but the team has plenty to prove in NESCAC play. See page 22 for full coverage.

ANTHEA VON VIRACH

Women's Hockey Team Skates into New Year 9-1-1

By Ben Buckles

The winter break did very little to slow down the women's hockey team, as it remained undefeated since its loss to Plattsburgh over a month ago, and opened the new year with three strong wins and a hard-fought tie.

The team returned to campus with an electrifying overtime win over Elmira on Saturday, Jan. 4. The following Wednesday, Jan. 8, Middlebury recorded a dominant 8-2 win over Salve Regina in the first ever matchup between the two schools. Playing in a doubleheader against Wesleyan over the weekend of Jan. 10 and 11, the Panthers split with the host Cardinals.

The team's early January game against Elmira bolstered its resume for a high national ranking with a gritty overtime win. The two teams last squared off in last year's national championship, with the Soaring Eagles skating away with the trophy. This time around the Panthers were able to exact a small amount of revenge for last year's disappointment.

Elmira jumped out to an early lead, scoring in the first period, and kept up a constant pressure on the Panthers back line. Middlebury got on the board when Katie Mandigo '16 raced up the side of the rink and rifled the puck over the shoulder of Elmira goalie Kyle Nelson for the extra time win 1:50 into the overtime period.

The Panthers then participated in a midweek contest just four days later

against Salve Regina, in which Middlebury walked away with a decisive win by a final tally of 8-2.

Six different players scored goals for Middlebury, with Jane Freda '17, Emily Fluke '15, Mandigo, and Hannah Bielawski '15 each with one, and Katie Sullivan '15 and Kelly Sherman '17 each recording a pair. Sullivan stood out with a strong individual performance, recording not only her two goals but also two assists to go with it.

Co-captain Sara Ugalde '14 commented on the Panthers' win over Elmira.

"Beating Elmira is a moment that sticks out to me as extremely important to our season, we never gave up and fought until the end," she said. "Playing top-notch non-conference teams is always a challenge, and it was awesome to come out on top."

Following up that win with the opening of conference play, Middlebury traveled to Wesleyan for a double-header.

The first of the two games ended in a tie, as each team failed to score in overtime to seal the game. This end result represents just the fourth time in 51 contests that the Panthers have failed to beat the Cardinals, with the last tie coming seven years ago.

Middlebury looked to be on their way to a win, holding a 2-0 lead late into the second period. Wesleyan did not settle for a loss though and came back to score a goal 16:57 into the second period, and another

within the first half minute of the third to send the game into extra time.

The next day, however, Middlebury retaliated with a 4-1 win over the Cardinals. The Panthers made constructive use of the power play in this game, converting two of seven opportunities for key goals. Those goals, scored by Pam Schulman '17 and Ugalde, were the difference in the game.

The Panthers' offense has been on a tear as of late, recording 17 total goals over their last four games. Sullivan leads the way in overall points with 15, while Bielawski and Fluke '15 follow behind with 14 total points each.

Eighteen different players have recorded points for the Panthers this season, or over two thirds of the total roster. On the defensive end, Goalkeeper Annabelle Jones '15 boasts a .929 save percentage, 145 saves out of 156 shots faced.

"With the younger players playing hard and learning how to produce even more from our older girls, this team is headed in the right direction offensively," head coach Bill Mandigo said. "I'm excited to see what else we can do moving forward."

With these most recent results, Middlebury now sits at 9-1-1 overall and holds down a number-two national ranking. The Panthers will attempt to keep up its offense's explosive pace this weekend against Amherst, with whom they are tied atop the NESCAC standings.

Women's Hoops Splits Opening NESCAC Pair

By Fritz Parker

The Middlebury women's basketball team opened NESCAC play with a pair of games this past weekend, using a fast start to run past Bates on Friday, Jan. 10, before falling to a tough Jumbos team on Sunday, Jan. 12. The Panthers followed the NESCAC split with a home win over Colby-Sawyer to improve to 6-7 on the season.

On Friday, Middlebury held Bates to 20 percent from the field in the first half for just 15 points in building a 19-point halftime lead. The Panthers hit a trio of three-point shots in the half to help themselves to a large early lead.

"Our fast start was crucial to our success that game because we were able to set a time that was necessary to maintain the entire game in order to win," said senior guard Scarlett Kirk '14.

The halftime deficit would be too much for the Bobcats to overcome, as they outscored the Panthers in the second half only to fall by a final tally of 67-54.

Kirk – playing in just her fifth game of the season for the basketball team after wrapping up a soccer season in which she garnered First Team All-NESCAC honors en route to the team's national semifinals appearance – led all Middlebury scorers with 17 points on 7-11

shooting. She also pulled down 10 rebounds to cement a double-double.

"Basketball uses some different muscles and there were a lot of plays I had to learn, but the transition was pretty easy," she said. "It is fun to have another chance to compete after the successful soccer season."

Forward Elizabeth Knox '17 also got into the scoring fold, recording 14 points and 10 rebounds for a double-double of her own against Bates. Guard Sarah Marcus '14 added 15 points, with Alexis Coolidge '15 pouring in 14 off the bench to pace the Panthers on the day.

Matching up against seventh-ranked Tufts on Sunday afternoon, the Panthers struggled with turnovers in their eventual loss to the visiting Jumbos. While the Panthers kept pace on the boards and played strong defense throughout – holding Tufts

to 30 percent shooting in the first half – poor second-half shooting and a 24-6 turnover margin spelled doom for the home team.

The Panthers were able to keep it relatively close until halftime, but fell far behind in the second period to lose by a final tally of 70-44.

"We were aware that Tufts was going to be a very difficult

LINDSAY KINGSTON '14

DEFENDER

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